

Winter 2021

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University of Puget Sound

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# arches

The Myth of the  
Deadbeat Dad  
p. 8

What Abby Williams Hill  
Was Thinking  
p. 18

Our Very Own Spy  
p. 24

## Taking His Time

After quietly influencing  
R&B music behind the  
scenes for a decade,  
Eric Mercer Jr. '10—aka  
Blakk Soul—finally  
releases an album  
of his own.







**APPLIED RESEARCH**  
Anna Mondschean '21, left, and Dana Levy '21 are two of the Puget Sound students who interned virtually with the Washington State LGBTQ Commission last year, building collections of resources to serve LGBTQ communities across the state. See page 6.

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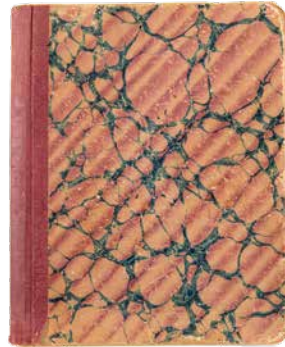
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### Featured Contributors

**Alexander Gelfand** (p. 6) has written for *The New York Times*, *The Economist*, *Wired*, and other publications. He lives in New York.

**Martin Smith** (p. 8) is the author of 10 books, including the forthcoming *Going to Trinidad: A Doctor, a Colorado Town, and Stories From an Unlikely Gender Crossroads*.

**Loris Lora** (p. 10) is a Los Angeles-based illustrator whose clients include Google, *The New Yorker*,

*The Wall Street Journal*, and several book publishers.

**Cristina Rouvalis** (p. 18) has written for *Esquire*, *AARP*, *Fortune*, and *Parents*, among others. She lives in Pittsburgh.

**Julianne Bell** '13 (p. 24) is the food editor at *EverOut.com* and a freelance writer based in Seattle.

**Sarah Cohn** (p. 28) describes herself as "a young illustrator and writer, born and raised in Los Angeles." Her work has been featured in *Creative Quarterly*.



**Cover** Songwriter, performer, and recording engineer Eric Mercer Jr. '10, better known as Blakk Soul, debuts. See p. 14. Photo by Sy Bean.



## On COVID-19, the Biden Administration, and the Future



**As we're speaking, spring semester is about to begin, with more students on campus and more in-person classes. What was involved in planning for a reopening?**

It's been an all-hands-on-deck effort across the entire campus community. We've been working for 10 months to prepare for this moment, and we feel very, very good about the work that has been done to develop the myriad policies and procedures, and the safety and health protocols, to mitigate the risks associated with the virus. We've been working with an outside group to assess our efforts, and they gave us high marks for our readiness to welcome more of our students back to campus.

**In nonpandemic news, you just named a director for the new Master of Public Health program. How does the new degree fit with the strategic priorities of the university?**

First of all, we're very excited to welcome Dr. Cara Frankenfeld as the inaugural director. She brings a wealth of accomplishments in this discipline—and has previously lived in the Pacific Northwest. And, although it seems particularly timely right now in the midst of COVID-19, we've actually been working for a couple of years to bring this program forward. We recognized a need for public health professionals in our region and nationwide, and we saw an opportunity to step into this space and build on our established strength in the health sciences. We have really exceptional programs in occupational therapy, physical therapy, and counseling, so this degree in public health fits very nicely.

**There's a new administration in Washington. If you could take President Biden a wish list of your priorities, what would be on that list?**

Well, first I would support his statements that the most recent COVID relief bill, passed in December, is just a start, and that he will include higher education in future relief packages. The most recent bill included \$22 billion for higher education, which was about \$8.7 billion more than the first CARES Act. But that does not meet all of our sector's needs or our students' needs, in terms of responding to ongoing repercussions of COVID.

Early indications are that he may bring enhanced accountability to higher education and provide greater oversight of not-for-profit institutions. And we anticipate he will sunset some of the executive orders and other actions from the previous administration—particularly those that address sexual assault, DACA, free speech, diversity training, LGBT students, international students, and more.

**What about affordability of higher education? Can President Biden make a difference there?**

Yes—and we'll encourage his administration

to increase federal financial aid for students, particularly through the Pell Grant program, and to make sure *choice* continues to be an important component. We like the way we do it here in Washington state through the Washington College Grant program, where the funding goes to the student and then the student gets to decide what college or university best meets his, her, or their needs.

**Back to the pandemic: Hari Sreenivasan '95 recently did a PBS piece on the coronavirus's impact on colleges. Enrollments are down, and expenses—like campuswide COVID testing—are up. How has Puget Sound been affected?**

We have not been impervious to the impact of the pandemic. We've experienced reductions in enrollment and, consequently, a reduction in revenues. We have taken a punch this year. But we've been fortunate in being able to lean into our very strong balance sheet. The university has historically been very well managed, very thoughtful with its finances, and we're taking advantage of that wisdom and discipline. And we're taking steps to move back toward equilibrium over a period of time. It's been a challenging time, but we are finding our way through it, with an eye toward calmer seas in our future.

**Some schools have eliminated certain majors, cut certain sports, laid off faculty or staff members. Will we see that at Puget Sound, or are you optimistic that we could avoid that?**

Well, like many colleges and universities, we made significant cost reductions this past year. But we did so in a way that enabled us to remain true to our mission and preserve the distinctive, high-quality, and engaging educational experience that is Puget Sound. We will undertake a comprehensive academic, administrative, and auxiliary program review process in the coming months that I'm confident will position us for continuing success in the years to come.

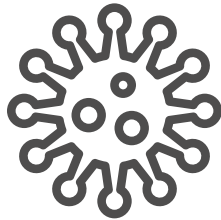
*—Interview by Tina Hay*

# What We're Talking About on Campus

## Pandemic Planning

Students started spring classes in January the same way they spent the entire fall semester: online. But the remote learning was only for one week—long enough for students to arrive, quarantine, and be tested (twice) for the coronavirus. After that, classes were set to continue in a range of formats—some in campus classrooms (though socially distanced and with masks required), some online, and some using a combination of in-person and online.

It was a step toward



normalcy in a decidedly not-normal academic year. Another was the reopening of the residence halls to more students: **About 900 students are living on campus** this semester—more than triple the number from the fall, but still below the capacity of 1,700. Dining options have been expanded to include

I think dance is just, it can save people's lives. It feels like whenever I'm dancing, it is what my body is meant to do.

—AMEERA NIMJEE, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF MUSIC, IN *KATHAK: STORIES IN MOTION*, ON KBTC PUBLIC TELEVISION

more grab-and-go meals, and students are using an app called GET Mobile to order online; The Diner is also open for seating, but at

reduced occupancy.

Meanwhile, Counseling, Health, and Wellness Services is operating a **testing pavilion** on the Event Lawn between Thomas Hall and Warner Gym. All students, including those living off-campus in the Tacoma area, are being tested for COVID-19 twice a week (versus just once a month in fall 2020). Faculty and staff members also are being tested, based on the nature of their work and how often they're on campus.

The school is prepared to pivot back to more remote operations if conditions warrant, but with vaccines being rolled out, officials are hopeful. Meanwhile, "the virus will clearly be with us for some time," President Isiaah Crawford told students in a letter in December, "but as a campus community we have demonstrated that we can move forward as safely as possible when we adhere to the rigorous safety protocols we have in place."

## Sports, Interrupted

The pandemic disrupted fall and winter sports, but at press time, student-athletes in nine sports were beginning shortened seasons.

**Football** is expected to play a four-game schedule in February and early March, while men's and women's soccer and men's and women's basketball will have 12-game seasons, and swimming and volleyball have similarly abbreviated schedules. Competition is limited to Northwest Conference schools in Washington, as Oregon has stricter coronavirus guidelines. Family members and fans can't attend, but the athletics department will stream many of the events at [portal.stretchinternet.com/ups](http://portal.stretchinternet.com/ups). Student-athletes who participate in the shortened seasons **won't lose any eligibility**—so, for example, current seniors can return in 2021–22 for one more season.

*continued on page 5*

## SKETCHBOOK



**Interviewing a Place** Elise Richman has spent months visiting, painting, and thinking about the Columbia River and its tributaries. She's learning about sites in the Columbia Basin that are at the center of debates about land use and water rights, among other issues. Richman, professor of art, is working on a series of paintings of the area—seven so far, all informed by history, science, and policy. (The one above is a work in progress.) She discussed her work in November in the 47th annual John D. Regester faculty lecture; learn more about the project and see Richman's takeover of the university Instagram account at [pugetsound.edu/interviewingaplace](http://pugetsound.edu/interviewingaplace).

### Welcome, New Trustees

Last spring, the board of trustees elected four Puget Sound alumni to join their ranks: **Mitzi Wilson Carletti '78** (Seattle), **Justin Graham '90** (Mercer Island, Wash.), **Scott Higashi '91** (Honolulu), and **Sarah Watson Lee '94** (Tacoma). Carletti was already an emerita trustee, having previously served from 2010 to 2019. The board also bestowed emeritus status on two former members in 2020: **Bruce Hart P'09** and **Lyle Quasim '70, Hon.'05**.

### NUMERICAL ORDER

The pandemic has kept one sector of Puget Sound staff especially busy: the Technology Services staff. Here's a look at what they've been up to.

3,656

Service Desk requests handled by Technology Services last fall (up 13% over the previous year)

100

Ed Tech workshops and student support meetings

68,600

University meetings held virtually

23,603,304

Minutes spent by students, faculty, and staff on Zoom (nearly 45 years' worth)

### QUOTED

We will stand together to meet this moment and help our nation regain its footing, and heal the divide that has been sown throughout our country for far too long.

— **PRESIDENT ISIAAH CRAWFORD**, IN A LETTER TO THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY FOLLOWING THE JAN. 6 ATTACKS ON THE U.S. CAPITOL.

### OH, SNAP!



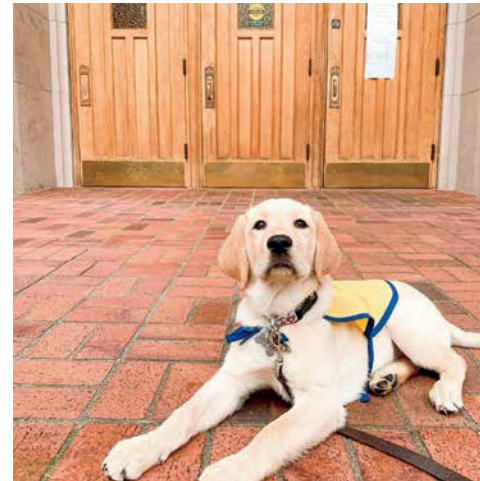
**Always a Logger** Even in a pandemic. Congrats Maddie Hanses '20, who graduated a semester early and is ready for anything. @maaddddiieeee



**College Goals** Scott Irwin '98, M.A.T.'99 took an informal tour of campus with son (and future Logger?) Liam. @scottirwin75



**Baby Logger** Kyle Johnson '09 and his well-dressed daughter paid campus a visit in October. @oldcliftonroad



**Good Dog** Dolly visited Collins Library while working with Romi Miller '22 through Canine Companions for Independence. @dolly\_vii\_cci



continued from page 3



### Newly Named

**Cara Frankenfeld** has been hired as director of the new master's degree program in public health. Frankenfeld, who has a Ph.D. in epidemiology from University of Washington, had been associate professor and director of graduate studies at George Mason University's College of Health and Human Services. Trustees approved the new degree program in 2020; it aligns with Puget Sound's strategic plan, *Leadership for a Changing World*, anticipating a growing need for public health professionals nationally. The two-year program will accept its first students in fall 2021.

### Remake the World

The university is sending newly admitted students something different this year: It will ask each student to choose one of five local nonprofits, and will donate \$5 to that charity in that student's name. The "Remake the World" initiative is aimed at giving the **Class of 2025** a head start on cultivating a sense of community engagement.

### Seen and Heard

**Chemistry professor Dan Burgard** was recognized by

the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust with the prestigious Swanson Scientific Award for his work in wastewater research.

**President Isiaah Crawford** spoke with *University Business* in December about his hopes for the future of higher education.

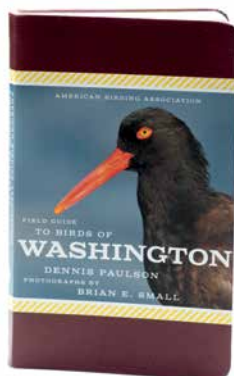
Puget Sound's use of **ePortfolios**—online spaces for students and faculty members to showcase their academic work—was recognized by the Association of American Colleges & Universities.



### Going to Graceland

On a soundstage at Elvis Presley's Graceland, with "Pocketful of Rainbows" by the King himself playing in the background, first-year Puget Sound student **Kī'ilani Arruda** was crowned Miss Teen USA in November. The former Miss Hawai'i USA has competed in pageants the last two years. "What I love about [the competitions] is that women are empowering women to reach their fullest potential," she says, "and the pageant provides so many opportunities for young women all over the world to do amazing things." Since her younger brother's diagnosis with autism at

age 2, Arruda has become an advocate for autism awareness and holds a registered behavior technician license. She's studying molecular and cellular biology on a pre-med track and minoring in Spanish.



### A Bounty of Birds

Many birds found in Washington state have a distinctive appearance, but perhaps none more than the black oystercatcher, which **former Slater Museum of Natural History Director Dennis Paulson** likens to "a crow carrying a firecracker." An oystercatcher graces the cover of Paulson's new book, *Field Guide to Birds of Washington* (Scott & Nix, 2020), which includes information about—and photos of—the 308 species found in the state, along with a checklist and a detailed map.

### Coming Soon

The search committee for a new vice president for institutional equity and diversity is expected to start interviewing candidates in February. It's a national search, with the hope of having a new VP named this spring; **Sunil Kukreja** is serving as interim chief diversity officer in the meantime.

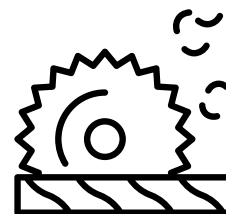


### Colson Whitehead

Two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Colson Whitehead shared funny and self-deprecating stories about his career, told of the 2014 newspaper story about the infamous Dozier School in Florida that led to his book *The Nickel Boys*, and read a passage from that book during the **Susan Resneck Pierce Lecture**. The event, originally scheduled for last May on campus, was moved to October and took place virtually instead, with about 350 people watching. Whitehead also met the following day with students in **Priti Joshi's** English 229 class, Introduction to Creative Nonfiction.

### Logger Day Challenge

The 2021 Logger Day Challenge is set for **March 9**, with details to be sent via email soon. In last year's challenge, more than 1,500 members of the Puget Sound community—including more than 60 alumni classes—raised \$228,902 over a 24-hour period. Funds raised will benefit scholarships, faculty support, and academic programs.



PHOTOS, LEFT TO RIGHT, COURTESY OF CARA FRANKENFELD, BENJAMIN ASKINAS, SY BEAN, AND CHRIS CLOSE



# The Kids Are All Right

Three students show their mettle in an online internship. (Spoiler alert: They also fight off a Zoombombing.)

BY ALEXANDER GELFAND

UNDER ORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES, Dana Levy '21 has a lot going on.

Levy is double majoring in English and gender and queer studies (GQS) with a minor in music. He's also a violinist and active member of the Puget Sound LGBTQ community. (Levy identifies as transmasculine.)

Last summer, however, looked like it would be pretty quiet. The coronavirus had nixed any prospects for a summer job, and by early June, the California native was, he says, "sitting around, twiddling my thumbs."

Kismet intervened in the form of an email from Heather White, visiting assistant professor of religious studies and gender and queer studies, announcing summer internship opportunities at the Washington State LGBTQ Commission. Established in 2019, the commission works to improve the relationship between the LGBTQ community and the state of Washington, identify the needs of community members, and ensure they have a means of advocating for LGBTQ equity in all aspects of state government.

"I basically responded in five minutes: 'Please, Heather, I need to do this!'" says Levy.

Before long, Levy and two other interns—Miles Cox '23 and Anna Mondschean '21, both of whom are double majors in GQS and African American studies—were working with the commission: compiling research studies on LGBTQ issues, identifying resources across the state, assisting with virtual meetings, and transcribing and closed-captioning LGBTQ Pride video messages from state leaders.

Manny Santiago, the commission's executive director, had been eyeing Puget Sound's GQS program as a potential source of research on matters of concern to the LGBTQ community. When he spoke at the launch of the GQS major earlier in 2020, Santiago encouraged students to identify issues that could help shape LGBTQ policy in the state. And Omar Santana, the commission's executive assistant,

"I have no idea how they did it. They found resources that were really hidden."

was looking for volunteers to help prepare and execute board meetings and town halls for the commission.

The GQS program, meanwhile, emphasizes experience and public scholarship, as well as theory. Majors must complete an internship with an agency dealing with issues relevant to gender, feminism, or sexuality—though Levy, Cox, and Mondschean hardly needed external motivation to do hands-on work for the commission. "I'm a theory nerd," Levy admits. "But it was really important to do something more intentionally community oriented." All three students received stipends through the university's experiential learning program.

BECAUSE THE INTERNSHIPS WERE OFFERED in the midst of a pandemic, the students did all of their work online. Levy and Cox painstakingly researched LGBTQ resources county by county, creating a database of trans support groups, LGBTQ-friendly religious services, lesbian meetups, and high school Gay-Straight Alliances (GSAs). In parts of rural eastern Washington that have few resources, they even found places across the border in Idaho where LGBTQ folk can go for emergency financial support or youth and family services.

"I have no idea how they did it," says Santiago. "They found resources that were really hidden. I had no idea that half of them even existed." The database now powers an interactive map on the commission website: Click on a county, and a list of available resources appears. Santiago says it's the first such list ever compiled for the state, and it will be used not only to publicize existing services but to iden-

tify gaps and target underserved areas.

The interns also were tasked with finding scholarly research on LGBTQ issues. Poring over the academic literature, they dug up and summarized studies on everything from the trials and triumphs of coming out in rural communities to the experiences of LGBTQ students of color—studies that Santiago will use to provide feedback to the governor's office and the legislature on policies affecting the LGBTQ community.

Perhaps just as importantly, they gave the commission the benefit of their online technical skills. Among other things, the interns ran the Zoom board during the commission's virtual meetings: admitting people from the waiting room, managing breakout sessions, and so on. Given the Zoom experience they had accumulated in their online classes last spring, that seemed fairly straightforward. Until it wasn't.

At the commission's first official meeting, a group of hackers Zoombombed the event, hijacking the forum to spew racist and homophobic slurs. "It was honestly terrifying," Cox says. Overcoming their shock, the interns quickly figured out how to eject the online attackers and alter the meeting permissions to prevent future assaults. Says Santiago: "The students were champions."

For their part, Mondschean, Levy, and Cox were struck by the resilience and determination of the commissioners, who resumed their work after a brief pause and ended the meeting with a debriefing session to process what had happened. "The immediate response of the commissioners was, 'We are still here. This is why we keep fighting,'" says Mondschean. "That was a moment I don't think I'll forget for a long time." Her fellow students agree. And their experiences at the commission have only sharpened their commitment to community service.

"I feel like I've proven myself a little bit," says Cox. "I could definitely see myself doing work like this for other organizations."

**A NEED FOR ACTION**  
"I'm a theory nerd," admits  
Dana Levy '21. "But it  
was really important to  
do something more  
intentionally community  
oriented."





# Daditudes

Distinguished Professor of Psychology David Moore on unwed parents and the myth of deadbeat dads

BY MARTIN J. SMITH

WHEN DAVID MOORE WAS A GRAD STUDENT at the University of Utah, his advisor, Paul Florsheim, invited Moore to help him develop an ambitious study of 1,000 young unwed parents. The researchers were especially interested in young fathers: “We explored what kind of fathers they hoped to be, what they were concerned about, what they were excited about,” says Moore, 49, a father of two who has taught at Puget Sound since 2002. They’ve turned their research into a book, *Lost and Found: Young Fathers in the Age of Unwed Parenthood* (Oxford University Press, 2020).

## Tell us about the title *Lost and Found*.

We discovered lots of fathers who were “found” during the transition to parenthood. Many of them described fatherhood as a transformative experience. Twenty percent of the fathers who had significant risk factors going into parenthood—substance abuse, criminal history, unemployment—were doing really well two years after the birth of their child. They’d made a huge turnaround. So we were particularly eager to tell those stories, as well as stories about the fathers who got “lost” along the way.

## Were there stereotypes about unwed fathers that were *not* borne out by your research?

When people think about adolescent fathers, so many think of a “deadbeat dad.” The conventional idea is that young fathers don’t care, that they’re just giving in to their hormones, and the mother is going to be left alone to care for the baby. But even among the fathers who struggled to stay engaged, nearly all wanted to be good fathers.

## Still, the number of kids growing up without a father in their home is pretty striking. How is that different from a few generations ago?

In 1960, about 5% of children were born to unwed parents. But if you look at parents today under age 25, it’s actually 70%.

## Why should we care whether young unwed fathers are involved with their kids?

The financial cost of young parenthood is estimated to be in the billions of dollars. Young parents are much less likely to get the kind of jobs they might otherwise if their educational and occupational trajectories weren’t waylaid. Then there’s the cost to children themselves. Research suggests children with two involved parents do significantly better in terms of education and employment, as well as social, emotional, and psychological outcomes.

## How essential are fathers, specifically?

On an individual level, it’s probably more accurate to say that fathers are *important* as opposed to *essential*. We can point to plenty of people with single mothers who turn out very well, including Barack Obama, although it’s worth noting that he said he had to write a book to work through the issues related to having an absent father. Many people who experience father absence describe it as having long-term negative impacts. On a larger scale, father engagement is critical for stabilizing families. When fathers are absent or not involved, families tend to be much more fragile, and that has a profound adverse impact on communities, as well. So fathers are, indeed, essential, and doing what we can to encourage their engagement is a worthwhile investment.

## Is there one factor that most determines how involved a young father will be?

The strongest predictor we found was a quality relationship with the mother. The “co-parenting relationship” is different from any romantic relationship that they might have had or still have. Co-parenting means they’re working collaboratively for the benefit of the child.

## Why is it important for young fathers to do things like shop for baby clothes and attend prenatal classes?

The prenatal period is an important window for getting the father engaged. Fathers are more open to being involved when they’re seen as valued and their input is seen as important. So we advocate for father-inclusive prenatal care.

## Does biology play a role in any of this?

Evolutionary biology helps explain why parenthood even happens. Younger people are great for perpetuating the species—surging hormones, peak fertility, the prefrontal cortex isn’t fully developed so they’re less likely to think about consequences. And there are different physiological aspects that seem to play a role. One of the mechanisms that seems to help is the role that testosterone and oxytocin play during the transition to parenthood.

## Oxytocin is the so-called “cuddle” hormone, right?

If a father is engaged and interacting with his child in a positive way, there’s a drop in testosterone and an increase in oxytocin. In turn, these changes are important in motivating the father to be involved. And being involved can support the biological mechanisms that keep this process going, activating the reward systems in our brains with dopamine.

## What do you mean when you describe a “good enough” father?

The problem with describing fatherhood as good or bad is that many fathers operate somewhere in the middle. So we advocate “good-enough” fathering, which is based on work by D.W. Winnicott, who talked about “good-enough” mothering in the 1940s. It moves us away from the idea of a perfect father and helps us recognize that there are different ways for fathers to be involved. What we had in mind with the “good-enough” father is one who has high standards for himself, but ones that are attainable.

A portrait of a middle-aged man with a grey beard and mustache, smiling and looking slightly upwards. He is wearing a white dress shirt, a blue and white patterned tie, and a dark blue cable-knit vest. The background is a soft-focus outdoor scene with green leaves and a brick wall.

## TRANSFORMED

Many of the young men who had struggled prior to becoming fathers “were doing really well” two years after the birth of their child, says psychology professor David Moore.



## Welcome to Zoom University

What's it like to start college in the middle of a pandemic? We reached out to our fellow members of the Class of 2024 to see how things are going.

BY BEN EVERETT '24, MOIRA GAFFNEY '24, GRACIE MATHIS '24, AND ALEX WICK '24



IMAGINE IF YOUR FIRST YEAR OF COLLEGE was like this: You wake up—not in your dorm, but in the bedroom you've been living in for the past 18 years of your life. You walk a few steps over to your desk and launch Zoom on your computer. You go into a virtual breakout room in Zoom and finally get to talk to your classmates. Class ends and you go to the kitchen for some snacks before you go back to your bedroom and start the Zoom cycle all over again.

For the Class of 2024, this is the new normal. After our senior year in high school was cut short (unsatisfying online classes, no prom, no graduation), COVID-19 stomping on our next big step toward independence was unsurprising. However, our hopes were still high about at least moving on to campus. A few students succeeded in that move, but most of us are doing online classes from our childhood bedrooms. Our class is living through history, and how it is remembered is up to us. That's where we come in.

We are Guide Puget Sound, a class of first-year students who set out to learn more about the fall's entering class and hear their stories.

We talked one-on-one—typically via Zoom, ironically enough—with nearly two dozen of our classmates to hear what being a new college student during a pandemic has been like. Here's what we learned.

*It's different.* Many of us had a clear picture of what our first year in college would look like. We'd be “going to get coffee, hanging in the quad,” according to Jojo Marshall, a first-year from Sherman Oaks, Calif. We all shared some of the same thoughts: that we would build up a new friend group through social events—like the movie *Pitch Perfect*, as Emma Porter '24 of Meeteetse, Wyo., put it. Instead of meeting with our new clubs in the Sub or the library, we're doing what we can to connect online. Says Grace Playstead, a first-year student from Olympia, Wash.: “It's really nice to check in with one another and see people face-to-face, even though it is through a Zoom screen.” The learning process, too, has been different. Playstead was one of several students who observed that “online college has been significantly better than online high school. Our high school teachers would just give us assignments. All of my classes at UPS

are synchronous. I see my professors and I see my classmates at least a couple times a week.” For music majors, though, even the best Zoom experience can be frustrating, as violin performance major Ela Escobar '24 of Tacoma explains: “You're supposed to be playing together, but Zoom has a lag and it's just not gonna work. We have to record ourselves. It's very tedious and, honestly, I don't like it.”

Although the difficulties of “Zoom University” are real, there are a few small benefits. For some, it's easier to learn when we have control over our environments. We can schedule our meals and our free time how we want, and we can learn in our pajamas without worrying about impressing our classmates.

*It's isolating.* While we are learning to adapt to the academic challenges, we have suddenly faced much more difficulty reaching out to each other. Jackson Slocum, a first-year from Spring, Texas, describes it as “really, really bizarre. It's really easy to meet new people when you're sitting next to them in a classroom, but when you're on Zoom, you don't really meet people in your classes.” Even those lucky enough to be living on campus, like



Porter, have struggled to connect, since they've been unable to interact much with people in person. And online friendships dissolved: "The people I had been talking to on social media over the summer didn't talk to me when we got on campus," Porter admits. "It's been pretty isolating and lonely."

Although it's not the same as networking in person, many students have used social media platforms to connect with each other. Group chats on Instagram and Snapchat are a common way to meet people; for Escobar, there are a lot of "DMs that just start with: 'Did you understand the homework? Because I did not.'" Zoom breakout rooms have offered another way to socialize, to talk to each other "without an academic filter," as Emma Jean Curtis '24 of Fontana, Calif., puts it.

*It's actually productive.* While these new social challenges make us get creative to connect with our peers, the COVID-19 pandemic has had some positive effects on people's personal lives and free time. For some Puget Sound students, this has included integrating more self-care into our everyday routines. Ryan Bennett '24 of Parkville, Mo., built a

longboard from scratch and has often gone skateboarding to clear his head. Kaya Heimowitz '24 of Honolulu, Hawai'i, learned how to crochet. "It was the one good thing about quarantine," she says. "I made my sister a bucket hat, and I crocheted a whole market bag. I got really good at it." Heimowitz also gained a new appreciation for cleaning: "I look forward to vacuuming every Friday. I listen to the *Hamilton* playlist—it's very good to listen to when you're trying to get a lot of cleaning done." For other students, maintaining their usual routine has helped: Lara Flanagan '24 of Edina, Minn., explains, "It's what I've always done. It's normalizing." One thing that has tied all of us together, though, is that the experience has forced us to slow down and reflect on priorities. For Ben Everett '24 of Highlands Ranch, Colo., this means taking more time for his own well-being and spending more time with family.

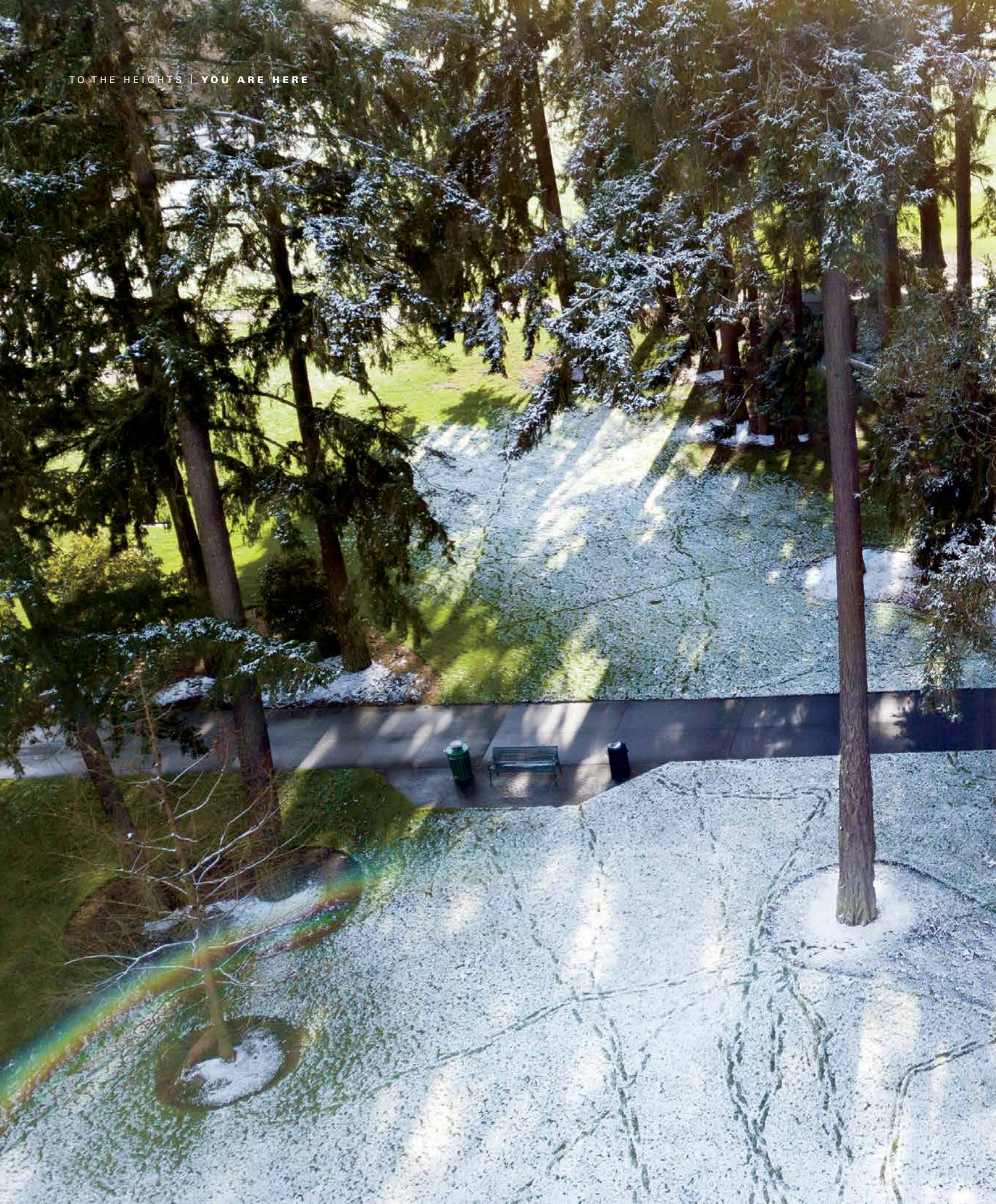
*It's unprecedented.* To start this next chapter of our lives during a pandemic has caused us to redefine our story of what college would be like. The plans to decorate our dorm rooms, grab coffee with friends, and go to parties,

have instead become an endless cycle of eat, sleep, Zoom, and repeat. It's isolating and hard not to obsess about the possibilities of spring. Will we ever get the traditional experience of being a first-year student? Who knows. However, if this experience has taught us anything, it has taught us how to use adversity to our advantage. Sure, a pandemic said "no" to us physically experiencing what college is like. But we found ways to meet new people, focus on academics, try out new hobbies, and engage in self-care. It forced some of us to break out of our comfort zones and reach out to others in ways that we might not have thought possible. Our first-year experience isn't starting out like any other class's would have. So yes, some could call it unprecedented, but to the Class of 2024, this is just our reality.

*Ben Everett (Highlands Ranch, Colo.), Moira Gaffney (Colorado Springs, Colo.), Gracie Mathis (Olympia, Wash.), and Alex Wick (Piedmont, Calif.) are all first-year students at Puget Sound. Professor of English Julie Nelson Christoph helped shape this article.*



TO THE HEIGHTS | YOU ARE HERE







**STOPPING BY WOODS...**

On a rare snowy morning in January of last year, photographer Sy Bean visited Karlen Quad to capture the footprints left behind by students and the light playing through the campus evergreens.



He released his debut  
album in 2020, but singer,  
songwriter, and recording  
engineer **Eric Mercer Jr. '10**  
has been influencing R&B  
music behind the scenes  
for more than a decade.

# Taking His Time

BY RYAN JONES

PHOTOGRAPHS BY SY BEAN

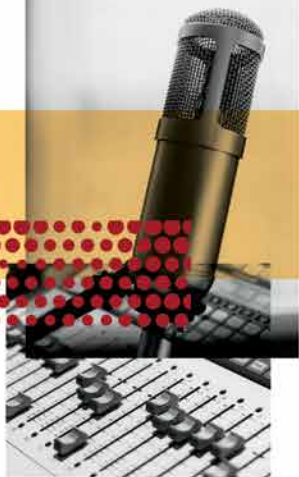
PHOTO ILLUSTRATIONS BY  
KRISTOFER NYSTRÖM

**T**HE MOST DAUNTING MOMENTS OF ERIC MERCER JR.'S CAREER have arrived in relative quiet, far from any spotlights or screaming fans. The audiences have been small but discerning, and each instance provided what Mercer's mentor and manager, Thomas Jones, describes as "one of those things where you have to be prepared without knowing what you're prepared for."

Mercer '10 goes by the stage name Blakk Soul, although here "stage" is deceptive, as it's behind the scenes—in recording studios and collaborations with better-known artists—that he has quietly established himself

as a rising creative force in the music industry. It was in the studio that Mercer first met legendary rapper and producer Dr. Dre: Invited by a shared industry connection to a creative session at a Los Angeles studio in 2017, Mercer was told that Dre "may or may not even come in tonight." Mercer wasn't sure what exactly he was showing up for until he got to the studio. "And then as soon I'm walking in the front door," he says, "Dre's coming in the back."

Mercer was introduced as a songwriter and production engineer, to which Dre—he of the six Grammys and walls full of platinum records—replied, "Oh, you write? Cool. We're gonna see tonight."







Game on the line, one second on the clock, down to the last shot—imagine whichever high-pressure sports cliché you like, and Mercer, a standout in football, basketball, and track as a kid, can relate. Here, with virtually no warning, was a moment to prove himself in front of a guy who has helped shape some of the biggest trends and artists in the past three decades of popular music. Mercer says Dre asked to hear some of his original songs, then challenged him to, essentially, build a new song from snippets and spare parts. “And I was able to knock it out,” Mercer says. Invited back to the studio, he ended up working with Dre over the course of the next year and a half, a collaboration that led to a co-writing credit on Anderson .Paak’s acclaimed 2018 album *Oxnard* and provided Mercer with what he calls a “master class” in songwriting and production.

Last May, Mercer released his debut album, *Take Your Time*, a slow-burning collection of ’90s-influenced R&B that highlights both his vocals and his versatility—he co-produced, mixed, and mastered the entire album. It’s a fitting introduction to an artist who has embraced a career path that offers a variety of routes. “Singing is what got me going,” he says, “but engineering is what got me in the door of the industry.”

The Tacoma native found his voice as a kid singing church hymns, but it would be years before music was anything more than a hobby or diversion. “My boys would have me singing for the ladies at social gatherings, that kind of thing,” he says with a laugh. Sports were his priority through his time at Foss High School, but by the time he enrolled at Puget Sound in 2006, he shifted his focus to longer-term endeavors. He thought hard about law school—inspired by Johnnie Cochran, he’d excelled in high

Unproven, unpolished, and unsure of his full potential, Mercer says he relied on his athletic experience to help prepare for—and survive—those sometimes-dispiriting amateur showcases.

school debate and imagined becoming a defense attorney—but a college internship at a Tacoma law firm cooled him on the idea. “That’s when I thought maybe this isn’t what I want to do for the rest of my life,” he says. “I just liked the debating part, but I learned there’s a lot more to it.”

Mercer ended up majoring in philosophy, but he took advantage of opportunities—a music business class, an extracurricular voice class—that would inform the creative career he still couldn’t quite envision before

him. Lacking any real industry connections, he immersed himself in the vibrant live-music scene around Tacoma and Seattle. He started showing up to sing at open-mic nights, including the notoriously unforgiving R.E.T.R.O. show at University of Washington. “It was brutal back then,” he says. “I went to case it out before I actually performed, and people were getting booed like *Showtime at the Apollo*.”

Unproven, unpolished, and unsure of his full potential, Mercer says he relied on his athletic experience to help prepare for—and survive—those sometimes-dispiriting amateur showcases. “It was a sports mentality,” he says, “understanding your strengths and weaknesses, and getting ready to compete.” When things finally started to click a few years after graduation, his sports background provided a different sort of foundation—an appreciation for teamwork. At one of those open-mic nights, a Sunday evening jam at a Seattle café, he hit it off with an established local producer named Kuddie Fresh, who saw Mercer perform and invited him to join a songwriting group he was starting. It gave Mercer his first chance to do more than just show off his pipes; it was an opportunity to collaborate with other talented people, to start developing as an artist. It wasn’t his big break, but it was a step closer to making his dream a reality.

**W**HEN MERCER’S PLAN FIRST STARTED TO TAKE SHAPE, Thomas Jones was the right man at the right time to help him mold it and push it forward.

Better known to hip-hop fans as Rapper Big Pooh, Jones is one half of the critically acclaimed North Carolina rap group Little Brother. Their initial connection was built on fortunate timing and a hunch: Back in 2011, Mercer was friendly with Jones’ then-manager, who recommended Mercer as a vocalist Jones might want to work with on an upcoming solo project. Jones asked for an introduction and a sample of Mercer’s music, but for whatever reason, neither came. So, without a meeting, or having heard him sing a note, Jones found Mercer via his Twitter account, sent him an instrumental track, and asked Mercer to send him a vocal that might work on top of it.

“He sent it back really quickly, and it was crazy,” recalls Jones, who eventually signed on as Mercer’s manager. “It was the first time I had heard his voice—I didn’t know his tone, I didn’t know anything—but I was thoroughly impressed. What he sent me is exactly what I put on my project.”

It was just a vocal cameo, and that fateful meeting with Dr. Dre was still six years away, and so Mercer’s life hardly changed overnight. He worked a couple of sales jobs out of college, then spent nearly six years at Boeing in a shipping and receiving job that paid the bills while he honed his largely self-taught craft. He released a pair of singles in 2014, the first of a string of eight singles he wrote and recorded while commuting between Los Angeles, Portland, and Seattle over the next five years, and in 2017 he released *Never See*, a five-track EP. None of these were hits, exactly, but all along he was making connections, collaborating with other artists, and figuring things out—how to build on his influences, how to fine-tune his sound, how to marry the growing confidence of his voice with his increased knowledge of production techniques.

Marquee collaborations followed—that unforgettable stint working under the tutelage of Dr. Dre, as well as production credits on recordings by Grammy winners Anderson .Paak and Seattle native Macklemore. From .Paak, the versatile singer, producer, and multi-instrumentalist who won the 2020 Grammy for Best R&B Album, Mercer said he learned the value of artistic courage. “.Paak’s fearless in the studio,” Mercer says. “He’s not afraid to step outside his comfort zone. That was so dope to me.”

From Dr. Dre, Mercer took not only a massive dose of confidence but an invaluable lesson in running an SSL board, the massive, knob- and lever-covered console that is a fixture at professional recording studios, and on which countless hit singles and classic albums have been produced. And then there was the chance to work with Little Brother, Jones’ group, which reunited after a lengthy recording hiatus for 2019’s *May the Lord Watch*. Mercer, by that time, had been working with Jones for nearly a decade, but had never met Little Brother’s other member, Phonte Coleman, who handles the group’s production.

Mercer was hanging with the group in Los Angeles when Coleman shared a new beat that he hoped to use on the album, but which needed a vocal hook. Coleman had a portable recording set up in his hotel room, and while playing the track, he noticed Mercer humming a melody that caught his ear. “Next thing you know,” Mercer says, “he let me record the demo and kept all my lyrics, and that ended up making the album.” The hook you hear on “Picture This,” the 12th track on *May the Lord Watch*, is the one Mercer came up with that day in the hotel.

For Mercer, it was another moment of being prepared even when he wasn’t sure what he needed to be prepared for. For Jones, it was confirmation that his friend and protégé is a true talent. “He’s got a tremendous skill set that not everybody brings,” Jones says. “He’s got a great tone and range, and he’s got the ability to write, to find melodies in things you wouldn’t think you could find melodies in.”

A veteran of 20 years in the music industry, Jones knows that talent alone often isn’t enough. He says Mercer’s low-key personality and quiet professionalism have him well situated to succeed. “He’s just a man of his word, a principled guy, and that’s a rarity,” Jones says. “I tell him he’s probably one of the humblest guys I know in this industry. You take the artist hat off, and he’s just Eric. He’s as solid as they come.”

The pandemic proved an unfortunate time for Mercer to release his first full-length album—touring in support of the new music is a non-starter for the foreseeable future—but Jones believes his partner’s reputation will continue to blossom behind the scenes. In 2021, Mercer will have production, writing, and engineering credits—not to mention a vocal cameo—on the buzz-heavy debut album from North Carolina rapper Lute. (Mercer also collaborated with Lute last year on a song that appeared on the soundtrack to the Madden NFL 21 video game.)

And without a chance to tour, he’s been getting even more creative than usual: He’s working on a video series, *Sangria With Soul*, pairing sangria recipes with songs on *Take Your Time* as a way to promote the album. “In these times,” he says, “you’ve gotta think outside the box.” He’s always writing songs, and he’s been in studios in Los Angeles and Tacoma during the pandemic, further polishing his production skills. He’s equally dedicated to his art and his craft, ready for the next opportunity, too committed to ever be caught unprepared.

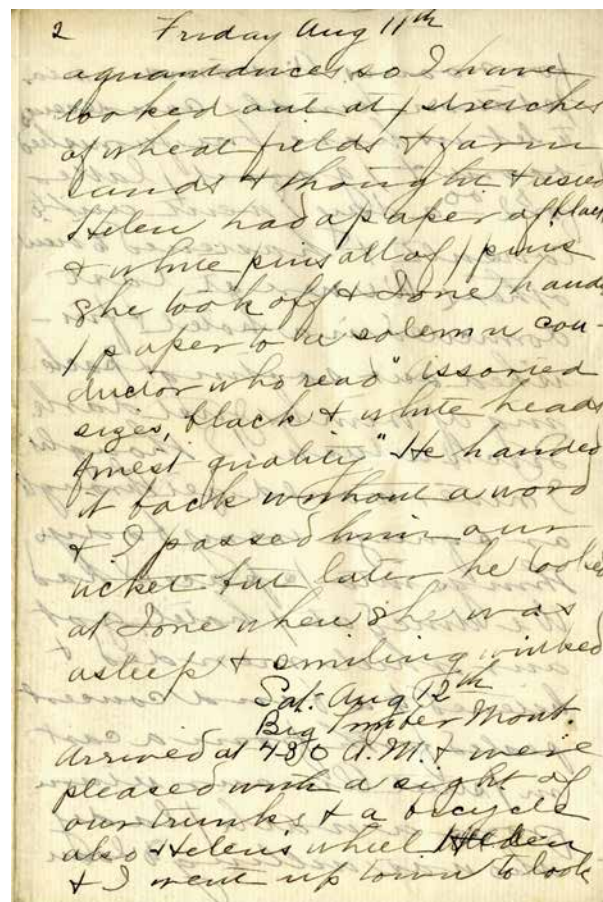


# NOTES FROM THE ROAD

Abby Williams Hill is best known for painting landscapes of the American West in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Now, more than a century later, her writings reveal a more complicated picture of what she saw.

BY CRISTINA ROUVALIS

IMAGES COURTESY OF THE ABBY WILLIAMS HILL COLLECTION, COLLINS MEMORIAL LIBRARY



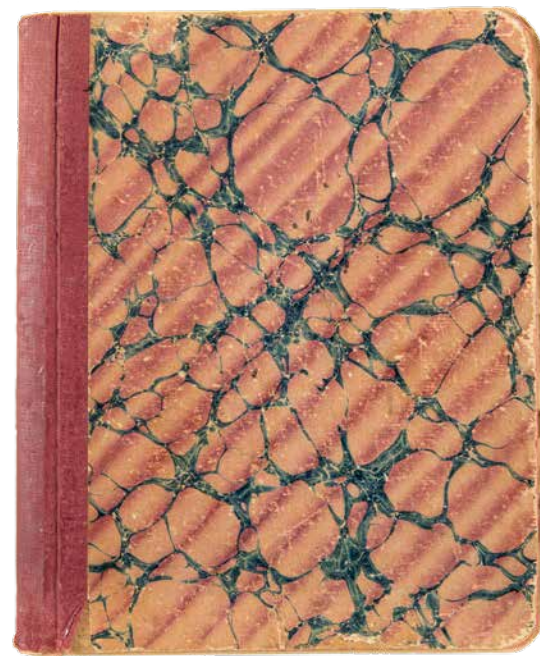
THE TOURISTS AT YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK on that September day in 1905 gaped at Abby Williams Hill. The artist was a sight: her hands caked with dirt, her face studded with gnat bites, a worn dress soiled by another day of painting and tromping with her four children through the wilds. Hill didn't look like anybody's idea of a proper lady. She didn't act like one, either, taking her kids out on adventures, one nomadic day after another for months on end, while her husband stayed home back in Tacoma.

At her campsite later that evening, Hill dipped her pen into an inkwell to document the encounter in a diary entry.

*They took a long look at me... Just then an addition to the party arrived and to her all was explained that I was an artist and these my children and they always went with me.*

*She exclaimed in horror, "[And] do you take these children way off like this? Suppose they got sick or something happened to them."*

Hill was a well-known painter in her day—her iconic western landscapes were exhibited at four different world's fairs, among other locations—and today her voluminous collection of landscapes, still lifes, and portraits of Native Americans belongs to University of Puget Sound. Lesser known is Hill the writer. Prolific under the most rustic circumstances, she



scribbled thousands of pages while resting in tents, in boarding houses, on trains—whenever she could catch a moment after hiking all day with four young adolescents in tow. Often, she reflected on the spectacular beauty around her, as in this 1895 entry from a Mount Rainier trip:

*Narada Falls are fine beyond description. They spring from a rock hundreds of feet high and break into spray through which when the sun shines can be seen a beautiful rainbow.*

*The Park is a gradually ascending series of demi level plateaus, bedded with gay colored flowers and with beautiful groups of trees about. Across the Paradise and Nisqually rivers towers the Tatoosh Range, grand and imposing. From the time we entered the park, the trail was fringed with flowers. Blue bells, mountain ash, buttercups, boyanthus, adder tongue in such masses as no florist ever attained. Clumps of painted cup, only the paint was rose color. We pitched tent on an elevated place where the thunder of the avalanches on the Nisqually glacier came from the left and that of the Sluiskin Falls from the right.*

*The night was bitter cold. All were quite ready to go home in the morning but me. I felt I could endure much for a few days of such grandeur.*

Her daughter, Ina, donated Hill's artwork and papers—diaries, letters, and notebooks containing recollections of her travels—to the university in the years following Hill's death in 1943. Over the past year, Laura

Hill kept a diary during her travels, which included painting western scenes for railroad companies wanting to promote tourism. The oil painting of Yellowstone Falls, shown here, was done in 1905 for the Northern Pacific Railroad Company.

At right: a bound journal from Vashon Island, 1900. Hill and her children would row across Commencement Bay from their Tacoma home to camp on the island in the summers.

Edgar, who is archivist for the university's Abby Williams Hill Collection, and three students have digitized and transcribed 2,000 pages of Hill's writings from the period 1895–1906, and have made them available online at [pugetsound.edu/awh-journals](http://pugetsound.edu/awh-journals). (The work was supported by the Washington State Library with funding from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services.) With numbered pages and slanted cursive written on both sides of fragile yellowed sheets, Hill takes readers through treks up snow-capped mountains, onto Native American reservations, and into factories and slums. As the family of intrepid travelers survived disease, a close

call with a mountain lion, and caustic remarks from society women, Hill opined about everything from women's rights to the plight of workers to injustice against African Americans.

In some ways, Hill the writer was the subversive voice behind Hill the artist, says Puget Sound Professor of English Tiffany Aldrich MacBain, who has been analyzing the documents from a scholarly perspective. Hill, commissioned by various railroads to paint landscapes in order to promote westward travel, painted idyllic scenes of Yellowstone National Park, Montana's Hellgate Canyon, and the North Cascades, among other locations.





To MacBain, they were scenes that captured the myth of the American West—the West of rugged individualism, populated by white men who set out to conquer the land. But Hill’s writing crackled with a rebellious spirit and told the real stories behind the myth.

HILL WAS BORN IN 1861 IN GRINNELL, IOWA, and moved west to Tacoma with her husband, Frank, in 1889—the same year that Washington became the 42nd state. Within a year, the couple gave birth to a son named Romaine. Unable to have more children, the Hills adopted a little girl named Eulalie, who had lost her mother and was about Romaine’s age. Then Hill adopted two older girls, Ione and Ina.

A larger family did nothing to deter Hill’s wanderlust. The opposite of a helicopter mother, she adjusted her kids’ schedules to her traveling lifestyle, the trails and open road the only path where she could escape the social constraints of the white middle class.

*I was cut out for the wilds, I am not at home in the world of fashion and I can not reconcile my self to spending on the stylish at the expense of the practical and good. I should like to wear cloth like men do, made simply and of styles that change but little.*

She wore plain, high-collared dresses—a contrast to the elaborate fashions of women she called “peacocks.” She also refused to wear a corset, even after Frank and his mother pressured her to reconsider. Hill won that argument after she told her husband to wear a corset for a day. He did,



*his home" as seen  
in the Pacific  
the Pacific  
fine beyond description  
spring from a  
feet high and  
spray through  
the sun shines  
seen a beautiful  
The Pacific is a  
ascending series  
plateaus—beds  
colored flowers  
beautiful group  
Across the Pacific  
rivers towers the  
grand and  
from the time  
park the trail  
with flowers—  
mountain ash  
toy anthur—like  
such masses  
ever attained—Ch*

and after that, dropped the matter.

Hill received criticism not only for her own unstylish ways but how she dressed her daughters. On Feb. 14, 1907, she wrote:

*I speak so often to E. [Eulalie] about her dress[.] She is very careless—Of course every one blames me—they like to find something of which they do not approve and probably with as plain tastes as I have ... Considering that the world seems to appreciate a well dressed woman more than any other I should not be considered competent to bring up girls and should not have taken them.*

The unconventional mother had an even more unconventional marriage. Frank, a naturopathic physician, didn’t share her adventurous spirit. He usually stayed home, making occasional attempts to join the family that were often cut short. “He wasn’t outdoorsy,” MacBain says, “and he was preoccupied with earning a living through his medical practice and investment ventures.” Yet, despite their different temperaments and Hill’s absences that would stretch to a year, their letters to each other revealed great affection, says Edgar. “She thought very highly of Frank,” Edgar says, “and often wrote about how much she and the children loved and missed him, and wished he could be with the family.”

Hill’s husband, Frank, was a physician in Tacoma and rarely joined the family trips. The portrait at left above was taken in a Tacoma studio in 1901. From left: Ina, Abby, Ione, Frank, Romaine, and Eulalie.

Above: A pen-and-ink sketch from Vashon Island, 1900.

Above, middle: Three Puget Sound students—who hadn’t had much exposure to cursive handwriting—transcribed more than 2,000 pages of it, like this one, under the direction of archivist Laura Edgar.

the rough can-  
 the Falls are  
 description - they  
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She signed some of her letters, "With tenderest love from us all. Your loving wife, Abby."

In 1901 and 1902, she took her children on a tour of the United States. While they stopped to see a few famous landmarks, such as the Statue of Liberty, the trip hardly followed the typical tourist itinerary. Jane Addams' Hull House and the Armour meat-packing plant in Chicago were stops, part of the factory tourism that was common at the turn of the century as the United States became more industrialized. "It was a way for the middle-class traveler to affirm their own place in society and feel good about middle-class values," MacBain says. "By touring the factories, people even got a good feeling about progress. A lot of the factory tours took great care to make sure that the tourists did not look into the eye of the laborers who were suffering."

Though her writing was often sprightly and engaging, Hill would sometimes drone on for pages about the minutiae of, say, a rubber-manufacturing plant. "Some passages are a slog," MacBain says. "But some parts are just beautifully rendered and really rich and fascinating."

She also took her children to New York City's Five Points neighborhood, known as "the most crowded block in the United States" and considered a "slum" at the time. Three days later, Romaine came down with a potentially deadly disease:

*Romaine, poor child, has taken the measles. After contending with mumps, scarlet fever, whooping cough for over a year it would seem as if our trip might remain undisturbed.*

Racial injustice against African Americans was another topic in her

Hill took her children with her as she worked all over the United States. They visited the Statue of Liberty, a meat-packing plant in Chicago, and the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, along with many national parks. They also lived for a time on the Flathead Reservation in Montana. The photo above was taken in 1905 at Yellowstone National Park.

notebooks. In 1902, she attended and reported on the Farmers Conference at the Tuskegee Institute, and wrote to Booker T. Washington, asking if she and her children could stay at the school. They did, and she greatly admired his championing of racial equality—and shared many of his views. Her concern for social justice led her to become a founding member and the first president of the Washington state chapter of the Congress of Mothers, which would become the Parent Teacher Association. When some members wanted to prevent

Black families from joining, Hill insisted the organization be open to everyone.

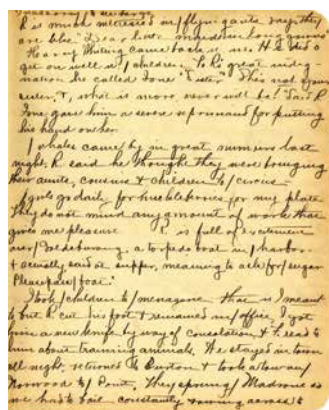
But she was a complex person whose progressive views were sometimes tempered by conservatism. For example, she disapproved of women drinking alcohol and did not condone divorce.

The family's next adventure took them throughout the North Cascades in 1903, after the Great Northern Railway commissioned Hill to do landscape paintings to drum up ridership. Other railroad commissions followed, taking Hill and her children throughout Washington, Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming. Weighed down only by a trunk, satchels, and art supplies, the group would go on long hikes through national parks and up mountains. During the fall of 1905 and again in 1906, mother and children lived in Montana, on the reservation of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, known at the time as the Flathead Reservation.



# ANALYZING ABBY

SOME DAYS, when Tiffany Aldrich MacBain pores over the century-old journals of Abby Williams Hill, she feels a tingle of excitement. “I get blissed out when I realize that I am touching the same piece of paper she wrote on



**“The whales came by in great numbers last night,” Hill wrote on Vashon Island in August 1900. “Romayne said he thought they were bringing their aunts, cousins, and children to the circus.”**

while she was on one of her adventures.”

MacBain has spent six years scrutinizing Hill’s diaries and letters to understand the cultural significance of Hill as a writer and a woman. Her research follows that of Ron Fields, professor emeritus of art, who was the first scholar to examine the archives, and who wrote a 1989 book, *Abby Williams Hill and the Lure of the West*.

For MacBain, an English professor whose scholarly interests include 19th-century American literature and women’s personal writing, studying Hill is a natural fit. Working her way through the archive chronologically, MacBain is now reading

Hill’s account of the trip that she and her children made to Europe in 1908–09. Faced with a deluge of paper, she looks for themes and patterns that reveal the relationship between Hill’s thoughts and the era she lived in. “All scholarship starts with questions we can’t answer easily,” she says. For example, she wondered about the many factory tours Hill took during her travels: What did Hill hope to learn by participating in the “factory tourism” of the time?

MacBain also brings Hill’s notebooks and diaries into her classroom. Students have fallen in love with the archives, she says, and some go on to earn master’s degrees in library and information science. The Hill papers are useful to faculty members in other disciplines, as well, including art and art history, religious studies, African American studies, Indigenous studies, and gender and queer studies. And Laura Edgar, archivist for the university’s Abby Williams Hill Collection, envisions K-12 school teachers using the newly digitized papers (they’re available online at [puget-sound.edu/awhjournals](http://puget-sound.edu/awhjournals)) in history lessons, as well as interested members of the public browsing the journals to read about life in the West at the turn of the 20th century.

After spending years reading Hill’s thoughts, MacBain feels an obligation to her. “I want to represent her in a way that feels fair and right. She is an important figure. I feel that, in reading her personal writing, I’ve entered into a compact with her, and I want to hold up my end of the bargain.” —CR



Hill befriended and painted the portrait of Charlo, the Bitterroot Salish chief, during a time when he was fighting to hang onto his tribal land.

Sometimes this traveling mother and children were viewed as an oddity, followed by tourists who would hide in the bushes and snap their photos. Others praised the outdoorsy way she was raising her brood. On June 8, 1902, Hill ran into an admiring woman in Dunkirk, N.Y.

*I talked to her some time and finally when the 4 came up dripping wet, with glowing cheeks and sparkling eyes—she said “How are you going to dry them?”*

*“They will dry walking,” I replied.*

*“Well—you are a wonderful mother and this is a most interesting family—I’ve never known of anything like this—Why do not more mothers do as you do! How fine for these children to go about like this!”*

Living in a tent also led to some madcap moments when the kids were scrambling to look presentable before going to town for an ice cream social or another invitation. After weeks on the road, they would mend their tattered clothes and try to smooth over their trail-worn appearances.

On Aug. 5, 1902, in Trout Lake, Wash., she wrote in her diary:

*I let down Eulalie’s dress and mended it, hastily looked over the other girls and gave directions. Ina scrubbed R’s face and hands, sewed on missing buttons. “Where’s my shoe?” said Ina.*

*“Oh! It’s out there with dough in it” said E....*

*“Your hair has a daub of pitch in it.”*

*“There is a patch of blood from a mosquito bite on your nose”*



*"You have a great hole under your arm"*  
*"You have forgotten to put on your stockings"*  
*"There is lots of sand in the part of your hair"*  
*"I have only part of one shoe string, what shall I do?"*  
*"May I wear my bloomers, I hate skirts!"*  
*At last we were ready—(It had taken us 2 hours) and the procession filed off through the sunny fields arriving clean and whole....*

Hill didn't know it, but a trip to Europe in 1908 would be her last grand adventure with her children. They rode bicycles through Switzerland, Germany, Belgium, and France; took trains through England; and walked and walked. By then, Hill had come into her own, admired as a painter, prolific as a writer, each day a new adventure. She had succeeded on her own terms as a westerner, an artist, a mother.

But that trip was cut short by the effects of typhoid fever on Ina and Eulalie and by Frank's nervous exhaustion back home. The letters between husband and wife show little evidence of his growing depression, but eventually he disclosed to Hill the mounting effects of his overwork and financial worries. Abby Williams Hill, the intrepid traveler, clipped her own wings and came home to tend to him, reentering the society she had fled. During the 1910s and the early 1920s, she cared for him—first in Tacoma, then in Southern California—while he went in and out of mental institutions.

In 1924, after her husband recovered, the 63-year-old painter Hill—still itching for the great outdoors—bought a Hudson touring car. For seven years, they spent winters camping in Arizona and summers in western and southern national parks. She continued to paint the national

**Hill continued to paint—and travel—into her 60s. She and her husband took their Hudson touring car to national parks and other sites in the West and Southwest throughout the 1920s. They eventually retired from traveling and moved to San Diego.**

parks, which were now more crowded with tourists and marred by roads bringing them there. Upset at how much the parks had changed from the pristine condition she had seen 20 years before, she wrote a letter to Horace Albright, superintendent of the National Park Service, decrying the damage she saw in Sequoia National Park—she called it "nothing short of a crime" that several of the giant trees had been "blasted out to make way for the road," and she

noted that campsites cluttered the area and campfires were being allowed dangerously close to the ancient trees.

The Hills eventually retired from traveling and lived out their days in San Diego. Frank died in 1938, and Abby died five years later.

Abby Williams Hill left behind paintings that showed the grandeur of the West, as well as a trove of journals and letters that expressed her private thoughts about the inequalities of the patriarchal society of her time. In her journals, she often reflected on the meaning of genius and talent in a society where so many people were silenced by rigid roles. As MacBain puts it, "She paid careful attention to the fact that not many people are remembered for what they've produced, and that a great number of people with talent are not in circumstances that allow them to develop that talent."

Through her sheer will, wanderlust, and insatiable curiosity, she forged a path that let her not only express her artistic talent but also voice her thoughts on paper and, in so doing, process the world around her. Says MacBain: "I think in her heart of hearts, she was a writer."





# Risky Business

Her work for U.S. intelligence agencies took Sarah Carlson '02 to Baghdad and other hotspots. But it was the year in Tripoli that provided the greatest adventure—and the greatest danger.

BY JULIANNE BELL '13





On the day in July 2014 that the U.S. evacuated its embassy in Tripoli amid heavy violence in Libya's capital city, Sarah Carlson '02 rode shotgun in one of the armored vehicles that would lead the caravan out of the city. Carlson, a CIA analyst, had worked at the embassy for a year, and she and other embassy personnel had grown increasingly vulnerable in recent months as Libya's civil war sparked gun battles and rocket attacks all around their compound. Now, the U.S. State Department had ordered Carlson and her colleagues to destroy everything in the compound, pack the bare essentials needed to survive, and drive through southern Libya and then into Tunisia, along a treacherous route filled with militia checkpoints and the constant fear of terrorists attacking the convoy.

As the Toyota Hilux jostled along the desert landscape, Carlson's left hand rested on an object hidden beneath a sparkly blue scarf: an M4 rifle. Her Glock and extra magazines sat below her legs under the seat; the glove compartment held six hand grenades. The driver was a member of the U.S. Special Forces Operation Command. If their part of the convoy came under attack, he would coordinate the defense, while Carlson would move the other officers to safety. The lives of the two men in the back seat were her responsibility.

With her Bluetooth speaker on low volume, she pressed play on a song she considered a theme song for the adventure: "Glory and Gore" by Lorde. Tense, thrumming synths filled the vehicle, just barely audible over the engine and the gunfire and artillery in the distance. "*There's a humming in the restless summer air / And we're slipping off the course that we prepared / But in all chaos, there is calculation ...*"

There may have been calculation in the chaos, but even so, Carlson wasn't sure that everyone would make it out alive.

CARLSON'S MEMOIR, *In the Dark of War: A CIA Officer's Inside Account of the U.S. Evacuation from Libya* (Fidelis Books, 2020), traces the path of her unlikely trajectory from a shy preacher's daughter to a CIA analyst in war-torn Libya. Her life began in Pennsylvania, where her father attended seminary. He eventually became the minister at a small church in rural Ohio, where Carlson spent the early part of her childhood surrounded by three active brothers, playing hide-and-seek in cornfields, camping, hiking, and learning archery. Her mother and father divorced when Carlson was 8, and the family moved back to the Pacific Northwest to be closer to extended family.

After the divorce, Sarah's mother raised her and her brothers mostly on her own, instilling in them a strong value for independence, duty, and altruism. Helping others seems to have come naturally to Carlson: When she was about 9, she confronted a bully who was picking on her brother on the school bus; in high school, she was quick to look out for her friends

**TURNING POINT**  
Sarah Carlson '02 was a Puget Sound student doing an emergency management internship with Pierce County when the 9/11 attacks took place—an event that spurred her interest in a career in intelligence.





## BE PREPARED

Sarah Carlson '02 spends her days thinking about emergency preparedness. Here, she offers five tips for making sure you and your home are ready for just about anything. —JB

### 1. HAVE A DESIGNATED CONTACT.

"Cell service in the local area is often overwhelmed in disasters," says Carlson. She recommends identifying an out-of-state contact whom you and your family can check in with in the case of an emergency.

### 2. THERE'S NO TIME LIKE THE PRESENT.

Don't underestimate the importance of having an emergency plan. It's important to develop a plan with your family now, before a dire predicament arises. "For example, if you're at work with a child at school and no cell service, how will you all reach home safely," Carlson asks. "Develop that plan now."

### 3. BE READY FOR A BLACKOUT.

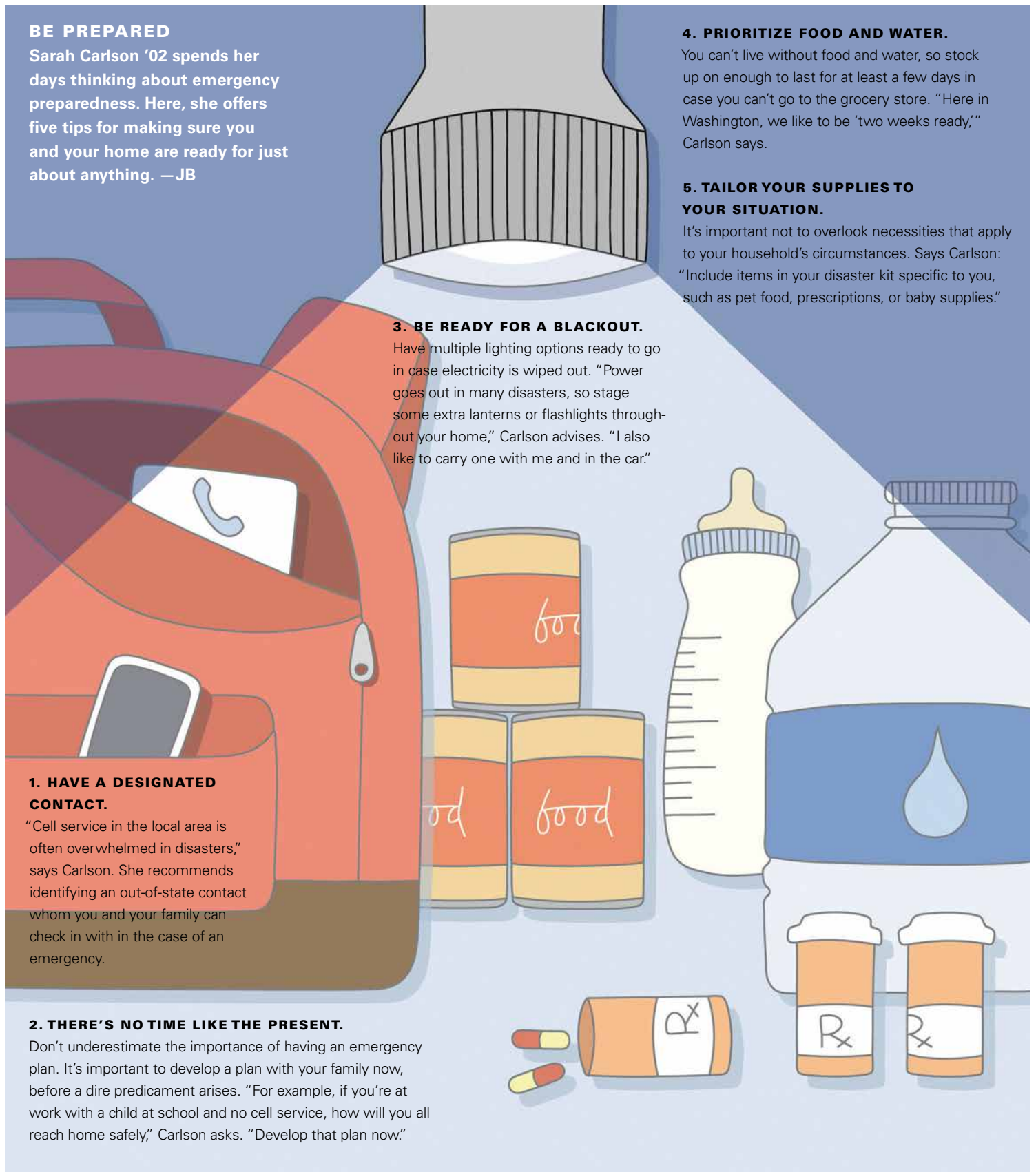
Have multiple lighting options ready to go in case electricity is wiped out. "Power goes out in many disasters, so stage some extra lanterns or flashlights throughout your home," Carlson advises. "I also like to carry one with me and in the car."

### 4. PRIORITIZE FOOD AND WATER.

You can't live without food and water, so stock up on enough to last for at least a few days in case you can't go to the grocery store. "Here in Washington, we like to be 'two weeks ready,'" Carlson says.

### 5. TAILOR YOUR SUPPLIES TO YOUR SITUATION.

It's important not to overlook necessities that apply to your household's circumstances. Says Carlson: "Include items in your disaster kit specific to you, such as pet food, prescriptions, or baby supplies."



and to provide care if something went awry. She and her family volunteered at their church, laying the foundation for a lifetime of service work.

It was also Carlson's mother who inspired her to attend University of Puget Sound. Carlson started college at Western Washington University; then her mother took a job as an office assistant in Puget Sound's School of Education, and Sarah decided to transfer soon after. "I'd take breaks between classes and go get a coffee and take it up to her, so I knew a lot of people in the education department," she says.

Carlson earned an English degree with an emphasis in writing, rhetoric, and culture. In one of her classes, she read an ancient text, Thucydides' *History of the Peloponnesian War*. "I thought there were really important lessons about war," she says. She also continued her volunteer work, participating in the Big Sister program.

In fall 2001, when she was a senior, she did an internship at Pierce County's Department of Emergency Management, helping schools build emergency response plans. She found the pressure-oriented deadline work to her liking, and imagined someday working in local emergency services (she already was an EMT) and perhaps writing books on the side. Then the Sept. 11 attacks happened. The school shut down, and Carlson was called in to her internship to help prepare an Urban Search and Rescue Team to deploy to the Pentagon and World Trade Center. "I knew at that moment, when I was helping them get ready to go, that I wanted to do something more," she says. On the advice of her manager, a retired Army colonel, she applied to the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA). All three of her brothers signed up to serve in the Department of Defense in response to the attacks.

Carlson was accepted into the DIA, but had to wait for an extensive background check to be completed. She graduated from Puget Sound in 2002 and began at the DIA a year later. She worked in counterterrorism in Baghdad, then spent two years at the National Counterterrorism Center in Washington, D.C., and two more as an analyst for the U.S. Northern Command in Colorado Springs, Colo.

She started with the CIA in 2008 as a "targeting analyst," traveling extensively to the Middle East, North Africa, and South Asia, specializing in finding threats and identifying plans to attack the United States and Europe. She applied for an overseas assignment in Libya in early 2012. Then, on Sept. 11, 2012, members of an Islamic militant group attacked the American diplomatic compound in Benghazi, Libya, killing four employees—including J. Christopher Stevens, the U.S. ambassador. U.S. personnel were needed in Libya, and Carlson was assigned to go to the capital city of Tripoli.

To prepare, she studied Arabic intensively full time with an instructor for nearly a year, obsessively poring over flashcards in her spare moments. (Her fluency in the language ended up being a critical part of her role.) Carlson knew that Libya would be a dangerous assignment, and her trepidation was amplified when, just a few months before she arrived in Tripoli in July 2013, a car bomb exploded outside the French embassy in that city.

Despite the almost constant sound of artillery and explosions in the background, life in the embassy compound in Tripoli had a fairly predictable routine. During a typical day in Libya, Carlson would be one of the first among the staff to wake up. First, she'd check her email and scan social media in English and Arabic for updates. (Sites like Twitter and

In one college class, she read Thucydides' *History of the Peloponnesian War*. "I thought there were really important lessons about war," she says.

Facebook offered a surprising amount of useful information, from road closings to locations of protests, and even tactical information about the activities of enemies.) Once at the office, she'd check the classified systems for reports about threats through the intelligence channels. She'd spend the rest of the day in a windowless room, reading every new article and piece of intelligence about Libya, writing reports, and coordinating with analysts in Washington. She relied on espresso for energy and toted her iPad everywhere she went, constantly checking for new intel, briefing colleagues if a threat arose. Carlson would work until about 8 p.m., then the next day, she'd do it all over again. There were no days off.

There was constant traffic through the embassy compound—Ambassador Deborah K. Jones and her staff, Marines responsible for security, other security officers and staff—and if anyone had a question for Carlson, she had to be ready with the answer. Her findings determined the decisions for operations, and she needed to think of a sequence of plans for every imaginable scenario, or what she calls the "backup to the backup to the backup."

Carlson credits her English degree for her ability to quickly scan and summarize information, a skill that proved vital to counterterrorism work. "Most of the job of being an analyst," she says, "is taking a lot of information and distilling it into a short assessment that's really easy to comprehend, and then having to brief that in a very articulate and thoughtful way to very senior people, including the president."

To unwind from such intense work, she turned to jogging and archery, and listened to music (Sylvan Esso and The Head and the Heart were among her favorites). For relief from the constant bombing, she'd sometimes put on a pair of noise-canceling headphones in her room and stare at a poster her mom had given her with a view of a trail on the Olympic Peninsula.


On July 13, 2014, Libya's civil war intensified when militias attacked the armed brigades that controlled Tripoli's airport. Heavy militia fighting surrounded the American embassy. Faced with an increasingly deteriorating situation and fearing for the embassy staff's safety, the U.S. made the decision on July 24 to evacuate. Carlson was crushed. "It was just this sense of overwhelming loss," she says. "What was all that sacrifice for? So



Carlson had to negotiate with the CIA over what her book could say. At one point, the agency ruled that the entire book was too sensitive to publish.

many people died, and we're just going to give this up."

The evacuation took place on July 26, with a convoy of vehicles carrying 150 personnel making a harrowing 26-hour drive west to the Tunisian border, and then north to the capital city of Tunis. Carlson was designated a tactical commander—the person in the front right-hand seat, responsible for communication and navigation, as well as protecting the other personnel. She was the only woman and the only person without a specialized military background to be chosen for the role. "I felt honored that they trusted me to do that and knew I was capable of doing that," she recalls. "But it's scary. And I thought for sure we were going to be ambushed." When the convoy reached the Tunisian border, the embassy staff and Marines drove on to a nearby airfield and boarded a C-17 military transport plane to fly home, while Carlson and a handful of other officers drove on to Tunis, arriving safely the next day. The sense of relief, however, was short-lived: After their arrival in Tunis, U.S. officials informed them that—for safety reasons—they could not stay. Within 24 hours, they were on commercial flights back to the States. Carlson's work in Libya was over.

 CARLSON RETURNED TO CIA HEADQUARTERS and spent the next year working as a North Africa counterterrorism analyst. Frustrated with the way that the evacuation had panned out ("Even though leaving was the correct decision in the end," she says, "the fighting in Tripoli could have been averted with better policy decisions.") and with the U.S.'s lack of a long-term strategy in the region, she resigned from the CIA in 2015. Today, she puts her preparedness acumen to work as an emergency manager for the city of Lacey, Wash., where she specializes in all-hazards preparation, disaster response, and alert and warning. She's still good friends with many of her colleagues from her time in the CIA. She also does volunteer work with Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, a nonprofit that provides support for those grieving the loss of a loved one in the military.

The Saturday morning that I talk to Carlson, she's helping renovate a local Gig Harbor business to make its interior compliant with COVID-19

restrictions. She has a warm demeanor, with kind blue eyes and an easy laugh that belies her inner resolve.

Her story sounds like something from the pages of a Tom Clancy thriller: the Glock-wielding analyst racing against time to evade the enemy and figure out the next move. And that's partly true. But she's also an indie music fan, nature lover, and self-described sci-fi nerd prone to peppering her writing with *Star Trek* and *Star Wars* references.

Carlson had a reputation among her old CIA group for being "quietly ferocious." "She's initially kind of quiet. The term 'steel magnolia' comes to mind," says longtime friend and colleague Rosa Smothers, who worked with Carlson in the CIA and now is an executive at a Florida-based cybersecurity firm. "She's the person you call on your worst day and in your darkest hour, when you need someone's help and counsel. There's a reason she works in preparedness: because she's very cool headed under enormous amounts of pressure."

While in Libya, Carlson had taken careful notes to document her time there—primarily in case the embassy was ambushed and she needed to testify before Congress. Once she returned to the States, she began turning those notes into a book; many people don't realize the full extent of what took place in Libya, she says, and she wanted to bring awareness to the situation. "For me, it was a way to make all those sacrifices that we did there matter," she says.

There was just one problem with her book plan: When she joined the CIA, Carlson had signed a secrecy agreement, meaning that anything she wrote for public consumption would need to be reviewed by the CIA, and classified information would be redacted. Throughout the book's revision process, she negotiated closely with the CIA, agreeing to combine different individuals into composite characters and making other changes to conceal confidential details. Even so, at one point the CIA withdrew its approval altogether, ruling that the entire manuscript was considered classified. Carlson filed a lawsuit, and within weeks, the CIA reversed its decision. The book was finally published in June of 2020—almost five years after Carlson submitted the original manuscript for review.

The title *In the Dark of War* connects back to Carlson's time at Puget Sound. It comes from a quote in Thucydides' *History of the Peloponnesian War*: "Think, too, of the great part that is played by the unpredictable in war. Think of it now, before you are actually committed to war. The longer a war lasts, the more things tend to depend on accidents. Neither you nor we can see into them—we have to abide their outcome in the dark."

The sentiment struck a chord with Carlson. "We've been in these wars now for so long, decades now," she says, "with no thought as to how we get out of them, what winning means, what losing means, what's the outcome that we're seeking. And without having articulated that in the foreign policy area, you just have to abide the outcome in the dark."

She's fond of another quote from Thucydides, as well. It's a line about bravery that speaks to her so strongly that she used it as the epigraph of her book—and had it tattooed on her torso. It's a fitting motto for the woman who set out on the perilous path of the convoy that July day in 2014, conscious of the many threats ahead of her:

"The bravest are surely those who have the clearest vision of what is before them, glory and danger alike, and yet notwithstanding, go out to meet it."

# Always a Logger

**Class Notes**

*p. 32*

**Crossword**

*p. 37*

**In Memoriam**

*p. 38*

**Scrapbook**

*p. 44*

**NEW ROLE**

She's been a business and civic leader for much of her adult life, and now T'wina Nobles '06, M.A.T.'07 has a new job title: state senator. *See story, next page.*



## New Voice in the State Senate

T'wina Nobles '06, M.A.T.'07

BY DORI CAHN

UNTIL 2020, T'wina Nobles had no intention of running for the state Senate. She was doing work she loved as president and CEO of the Tacoma Urban League, and had just been re-elected to the University Place School Board. Community members and legislators had occasionally suggested she run for state office, and she would say, "Nope. It's not my time."

When she finally decided it *was* her time, Nobles '06, M.A.T.'07 declared her candidacy for state Senate for the 28th District. That was mid-March of 2020—and a few days later, Washington Governor Jay Inslee declared a stay-at-home order for the state in response to the coronavirus. Soon the pandemic upended everything, including Nobles' campaign plans. But she was undeterred. She has been facing down obstacles her whole life.

Growing up with a mother who struggled with addictions, Nobles and her two younger brothers moved around to Georgia, Alabama, and California, experiencing homelessness, living in shelters, and spending time in the foster care system. At school, however, teachers and coaches fostered her intelligence and her determination to not be defined by her circumstances. Nobles made it a point to say "yes" to any camp, volunteering experience, or chance to be with women who wanted to mentor and help her. "When I got older, I knew I wanted to provide those same kinds of opportunities for other people," she says.

Her mentors and role models were college educated, reinforcing her goal of going to college. A mother at 17, married at 19, she came to the Northwest when her husband was deployed to what was then Fort Lewis. She enrolled at Tacoma Community College, and—while raising four children—went on to earn two degrees from Puget Sound.

Fulfilling the goal inspired by her mentors, she began her career by teaching at Stadium High School and Lincoln High School in Tacoma. Over the past two decades she also has served as a PTA leader, founder of the

girls' empowerment program Ladies First, school board director, leader of the Tacoma Urban League, and member of Puget Sound's national alumni executive committee.

Nobles' decision to run for state Senate was, in part, aimed at making sure people of color are represented in government—and a way to encourage more Black people to run for office. Ironically, until she decided to run, she didn't know that there weren't any

In school, she made a point to say "yes" to any camp, volunteering experience, or chance to be with women who wanted to mentor and help her.

Black senators, and that the only other Black female senator before her (another Logger, Rosa Gourdine Franklin '68), had retired 10 years earlier.

During her campaign she had to confront what she calls the "structural racism" in politics: people who questioned her capabilities and qualifications, negative ads, racist attacks. None of that discouraged her. Nobles received 50.6% of the vote, just enough to oust eight-year incumbent Steve O'Ban.

Serving in the Senate will let her advocate for issues and communities she cares about, and be available to the residents of the district she represents. But she sees her role as more than that. "This opportunity, in this moment—as it is oftentimes when Black people are in these positions—it's way bigger than I am," she says. "I hope to be completely responsible and to take care of this opportunity to lead, to open the doors for someone else."

### ALUMNI COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Ted Meriam '05, president; Andrea Tull Davis '02, past president; Betsy Campbell Stone '79, P'14, career and employment services chair; Cas Almond '23, president, Student Alumni Association; Erin Carlson '04, student life chair; Frank Washburn '75, vice president; Gretchen DeGroot Lenihan '99, affinity groups chair; Joel Hefty '86, Puget Sound Fund alumni chair; Kevin Kurtz '97, vice president for communications; McKenzie Ross '06, regional clubs chair; Rick Sassara '87, athletics chair; Tamara Hamai '03, admission chair; T'wina Nobles '06, M.A.T.'07, secretary.

**1969** After earning her degree in English from Puget Sound, **Gina Soule Hietpas '69** spent several seasons as a backcountry ranger at



Olympic National Park, an experience that shaped her deep connection to wilderness. Her observation of the natural world and 40 years of marriage impacted by chronic health issues have resulted in a collection of poetry, *TERRAIN*, published by Blue Cactus Press in Tacoma. "Creative expression in all its forms helps us thrive and find joy in small, everyday occurrences," she says.

**1970** **Dennis Fulton '70** writes in to share that he is currently board chair for Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences, a medical school located in Yakima, Wash. He enjoys working with the university community, especially the students. "They are amazing," he says.

**1975** **Tom McCarter '75** retired Aug. 7, after working as the meeting planner for the David & Lucile Packard Foundation. "I loved the job and the work the foundation did," he says. "Every day, I got to go to work knowing I was making a positive difference in the world." While a student, McCarter organized dances at the student center and large, off-campus parties. He's still connected to more than 100 Loggers from his time on campus—"and we still like to party!"

**1980** **Michelle Reid '80** was named 2021 Superintendent of the Year by the Washington As-

sociation of School Administrators in November, according to *Woodinville Weekly*. As superintendent for Northshore School District, Reid counts racial and educational justice for all students among her top priorities.

**1983 W. Houston Dougharty '83**, vice president for student affairs at Hofstra University, was named to the board of the James E. Scott Academy by NASPA, Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education. The James E. Scott Academy provides advice and thought leadership on critical issues in student affairs and higher ed, and its board comprises 20 accomplished vice presidents for student affairs who lead divisions at a wide variety of institutions. The two-year role will begin in March. Over the past 30 years, Dougharty has served NASPA in numerous roles and was previously named a NASPA Foundation Pillar of the Profession (2018) and an Outstanding Senior Student Affairs Officer, NASPA Region 4-East (2013).

**1986 Thomas Quinlan '86** was elected to serve as a superior court judge for Pierce County, Wash. His term began in January. Washington Superior Courts have jurisdiction over felony criminal matters, real property rights, family and domestic relations, and estate, mental illness, juvenile, and civil cases. In addition, the Superior Court hears appeals from courts of limited jurisdiction. Quinlan brings a broad-based legal practice spanning three decades to the bench. He also served as judge advocate general in the U.S. Army Reserve, attaining the rank of lieutenant colonel.

**1987 Last summer, Susan Bladholm '87, P'16** was awarded a \$300,000 Murdock Trust grant for her efforts to develop a ferry system between Vancouver, Wash., and Portland, Ore. She was inspired to start the project, called Frog Ferry, while chairing the Class of 1987 30th reunion, when she would fly over the “relatively empty Willamette and Columbia rivers” on her way to planning meetings in Tacoma and Seattle, where, she says, “a much busier water transit infrastructure [was] fully activated.” Learn more about Bladholm’s efforts at [frogferry.com](http://frogferry.com).

**1992 Maria Kolby-Wolfe '92** has been appointed president and CEO of the Washington Women’s Foundation (WaWF), a Seattle-based women’s collective grant-making organization.

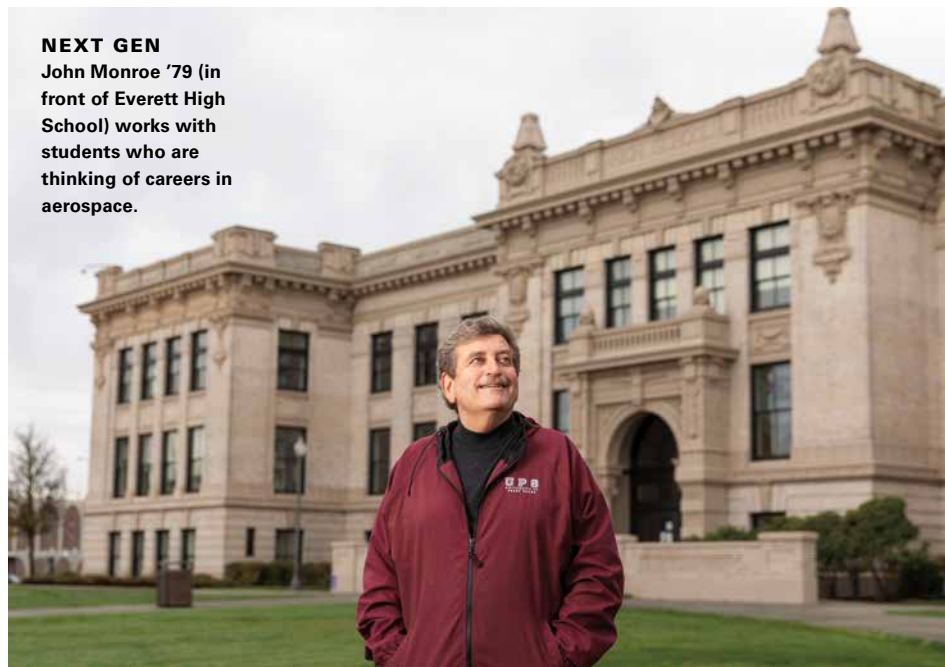
## The Importance of Mentors

John Monroe '79

BY MERI-JO BORZILLERI

### NEXT GEN

John Monroe '79 (in front of Everett High School) works with students who are thinking of careers in aerospace.



WHEN RETIRED BOEING EXECUTIVE JOHN MONROE '79 TALKS with high school students about careers in aerospace, he enjoys telling them he started at \$1.92 an hour. “Their jaws kind of drop,” says Monroe. He goes on to tell them that, 37 years later, he was in charge of Boeing’s 777 airliner program.

Monroe, 74, has been doing that since 2003, when he retired from Boeing and became a volunteer with the Everett (Wash.) School District’s Career and Technical Education program. He now chairs the advisory board for the program, which emphasizes academics and real-life skills for high-demand regional careers in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math).

When the pandemic scuttled summer plans for on-site internships, Monroe proposed a project to his high school juniors: What ideas did they have to get people back into planes? Over two months, “these kids did research, did evaluations—problem-solving. They came back with questions;

I answered them. Then we’d talk careers.”

Boeing’s announcement in 2020 that it’s moving its 787 Dreamliner production line from Everett to South Carolina also provided a teachable moment. “Don’t get all hung up on aerospace,” Monroe told the students. “There is space exploration, there is defense, there is clean tech. Think about the skills you need and how to adapt.”

Monroe was a low-skilled high school graduate at Boeing when he found mentors like eventual Boeing vice chairman Raymond Conner M.B.A.’86, among others. They urged Monroe to continue his education at Everett Community College and then Puget Sound, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration. Monroe worked full time, squeezing in classes during lunchtimes and evenings.

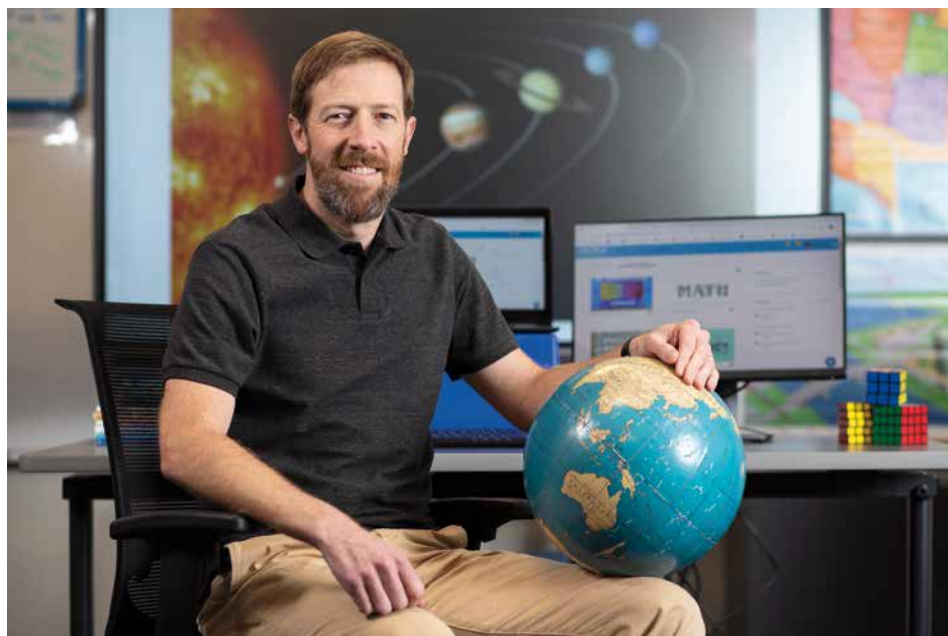
“I don’t think you can get anywhere in this world without mentors,” says Monroe. “That’s one of the values that I have in trying to give back to the students today.”



# Classroom Innovator

Bryan Johnson '96, M.A.T.'97

BY AMY DOWNEY



INSTEAD OF ASKING STUDENTS WHAT THEY want to be when they grow up, fifth-grade teacher Bryan Johnson has them consider the problems they want to solve. Johnson '96, M.A.T.'97 teaches at the Grant Center for the Expressive Arts, part of Tacoma Public Schools, and emphasizes “geo-literacy” in his classroom; he uses Google Earth, for example, to help students understand concepts like the Earth’s movement around the sun. “Students can see a satellite image of the Eiffel Tower and tell me when it was taken based on the length and direction of the shadow,” says Johnson. In 2017, he was named a National Geographic Grosvenor Teacher Fellow—along with Kacy Lebby '11 in Seattle—and made a 10-day expedition to the Galapagos. His students later used his iPad footage to create a mini documentary about the islands.

“I realized early on how much film excites and engages kids,” says Johnson, who earned a \$5,000 grant to help his school purchase filmmaking equipment. With a few iPads, plus lighting and accessories, students can draft

scripts, shoot and edit video, and publish on YouTube. Each year, his class submits shorts that retell award-winning children’s books for the 90-Second Newbery Film Festival.

During the pandemic, his students have used the online platform Flipgrid to share their at-home videos, and Johnson has given lessons in storyboarding and cinematography. He also stepped in front of a green screen and filmed a space science unit with special effects. “Engagement is a real challenge when students are at home with siblings and distractions,” he says. “We’re constantly adjusting, but you’ve got to keep the fun going.” Last fall, he had students research a U.S. president—and he taught portrait techniques so they could draw their subjects and submit the pictures to a natuational drawing contest.

Each summer, Johnson and his wife, Betsy Kreager Johnson '94, M.P.T.'98, travel with their children on monthlong road trips to Alaska, the Yukon, and western states. Now, he’s just waiting for it to be safe to explore again, both out in the world—and in the classroom.

Through their collective giving model, WaWF leverages the resources of individual women to make large-scale, high-impact grants, benefitting nonprofit organizations throughout Washington state. “I am excited to help realize the new direction of Washington Women’s Foundation,” says Kolby-Wolfe. “I envision an organization grounded in equity, which is openly and wholeheartedly antiracist, can boast of a diverse and inclusive membership of many kinds of people who identify themselves as women, and whose philanthropic support will be profoundly effective in the long term for those who have been the most marginalized in our society.”

**1995 Scott Moers '95** was hired as senior director of business development for Abelson-Taylor, one of the world’s premier health and wellness advertising agencies. He graduated from Puget Sound’s Business Leadership Program and has more than 20 years of agency experience.

**1998 Kathryn Cordero Norris '98** was named 2020 Family Medicine Educator of the Year by the Washington Academy of Family Physicians. Norris is program director at Sollus Northwest Family Medicine Residency, part of the Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic. The award recognizes her outstanding teaching and leadership.

**1999** In September, **Deborah Read '99** was named 2020 Ergonomics Professional of the Year by the Puget Sound Human Factors and Ergonomics Society at the organization’s annual Human Factors and Ergonomics Symposium. Congratulations, Deborah!

**2000** The events of 2020 prompted **Lisa Poole '00** to live boldly and embrace her entrepreneurial spirit. She shares that her new growth agency, LinkMe LLC, allows her to do what she loves best: connect people, ideas, and opportunities. She’s helping Loggers—and others!—fulfill their hiring needs in construction, commercial real estate, and insurance, and tackles business development consulting projects, professional development coaching, and insurance/risk management audits and claims support. “I want to thank all of those involved with BLP from 1996 to 2000, from teaching me to learning with me,” Poole says. “The education you all gave me has

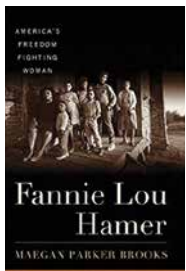
prepared me well for this new adventure!” Learn more about LinkMe at [linkmellc.com](http://linkmellc.com).

### 2002 Anya Vernon-Wentworth Hartshorn

'02 shares that she and her family are back home in Redmond, Wash., after a globe-trotting adventure spanning 2019–20. “**Michael Hartshorn '03** quit his job in early June of 2019, and our family of six set off for an around-the-world trip, spending time in 41 countries over the course of nearly 16 months,” she writes. “It was the best decision we have ever made, and we loved every minute of it!” Some of the family’s favorite memories include snorkeling in the Silfra fissure (Iceland); a safari in Tanzania; hiking to the monasteries of Meteora, Greece; learning about the Siege of Sarajevo; the New Year’s Eve lantern festival in Chiang Mai, Thailand; a motorbike tour in Hoi An, Vietnam; 11 weeks in Edinburgh, Scotland; and driving 10,000 miles around Western Europe. The family kept a blog of their travels at [harts-hornhopscotch.com](http://harts-hornhopscotch.com). At home, Michael is looking to re-enter the workforce as an actuary, Anya is continuing her life as an at-home mom, and their four sons attend The Bear Creek School.

For the past seven years, **David Jones '02** has served as a director of the Emergency Medicine Education Scholarship Fellowship program at Oregon Health & Science University in Portland, Ore. In July, he was promoted to associate professor of emergency medicine at the university. At the same time, he took on the role of emergency residency program director, becoming responsible for the education of 33 emergency medicine residents in the program.

**2003 Fannie Lou Hamer: America's Freedom Fighting Woman**, a new book by **Maegan Parker Brooks '03**, was released in March by Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. In the biography, Brooks



recounts Hamer’s life, including the story of her riveting testimony before the 1964 Democratic National Convention’s Credentials Committee, in which she laid bare a scathing indictment of a deeply divided America.

**2006** In November, composer **Scott Ordway '06** released *Girl in the Snow*, his

## Subway Stories

Kevin Nguyen '09

BY CHRISTOPHER HANN

CALL HIM THE ACCIDENTAL NOVELIST.

Kevin Nguyen '09 was living in Brooklyn and working in tech. Each morning and evening, on the crowded subway filled with New Yorkers intent on ignoring each other, Nguyen wrote notes on his cell phone—bits of dialogue, science fiction story ideas, observations about race. Not until he realized he’d written 20,000 words did he attempt to weave within them a cohesive storyline.

“There was no end goal,” Nguyen recalls. “It was not like, *This is going to get me a book deal.*”

Except, of course, that it did. Nguyen’s debut novel, *New Waves* (One World, 2020), is the story of two frustrated millennials at an internet startup—one Black, one Asian—who conspire to steal the firm’s customer database. The book earned starred reviews from *Publishers Weekly* and *Kirkus Reviews*, and plaudits from the *Los Angeles Times* and *The New York Times*, which wrote that Nguyen “captures beautifully the subtle strains of being disenfranchised, poor, and lonely in New York.” NPR named it one of its “favorite books of the year.”

Nguyen knows something of workplace angst. A double major in English and international political economy at Puget Sound, he spent nearly a decade in tech, including stints at Amazon and Google, before turning to journalism, first as an editor at *GQ*, where he survived five rounds of layoffs in two years, and currently as an editor at *The Verge*, a website focused on the tech industry.



“I got jobs that would pay the bills,” he says, “and did stuff I was really passionate about on the side.”

These days one of those side gigs is a second book. Nguyen wants to explore the Vietnamese diaspora in America—his parents immigrated here in 1975—though he’s finding himself hamstrung by expectations. “Before, there was a privilege of having an accidental novel that I assumed nobody would be interested in,” he says, laughing. “Now, the pressure is killing me.”



and pianist Anna Naretto. Preview the recording at [scottordway.hearnow.com](http://scottordway.hearnow.com).

40-minute song cycle interweaving his own lyrics with texts by African philosopher and theologian Augustine. The recording features mezzo-soprano Julia Dawson

**2014 Marissa Friedman '14** received her M.A. in history, with an emphasis in public history, from University of California, Riverside, in 2017, and her M.L.I.S. from San Jose State University in May 2020. After years of interning and working in museums, archives, historical societies, and public and special libraries, she now works as a digital project archivist at the Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley. Friedman



also continues to pursue her interests in community archives and the intersections between digital collections and archival activism, serving as a Pro Arts Commons Fellow for The Community Self-Defense Archive.

**2020 Jennifer Flonacher M.A.T.'20** was selected by the Knowles Teacher Initiative as a member of its 2020 cohort of teaching fellows. One of 34 promising high school math and science teachers awarded the Knowles Teaching Fellowship, she began her first year of teaching at Tacoma Institute of Industrial Design, Engineering, and Arts during the 2020–21 school year. A veteran of the U.S. Air Force, she graduated from, instructed at, and designed curriculum for the Air Force's Weapons School—an elite program designed to train expert instructors in critical thinking, problem-solving, integration, and systems employment. The fellowship is an intensive five-year program supporting early career, high school math and science teachers in their efforts to develop teaching expertise and lead from the classroom.

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# A Thousand Cranes

BY ELISABETH BENARD

*Loggers who've taken part in the PacRim program over the years will remember Elisabeth Benard and her husband, Nima Dorjee. Benard was director of the Pacific Rim/Asia Study-Travel Program from 1995 to 2015. When Dorjee was diagnosed with cancer last year, a number of PacRim alumni got together to bring him cheer. Benard wrote to us with this story:*

IN EARLY JUNE in the emergency room at 5 a.m., I was told that my husband had lung cancer. This began the worst summer of our 40 years of marriage.

Both Nima and I were involved with seven PacRim programs, which occurred every three years beginning in 1996–97. We regard the students, known as PacRimmers, as our children. For some, Nima is like a grandfather to them.

During the pandemic in 2020, some of the PacRimmers held Zoom minireunions. It was during one such reunion—with the PacRimmers of 2011–12—that a student asked me how I was, and I broke down. Through my tears, I told them that Nima had lung cancer and the prognosis was bleak. Within a few days, a clarion call circulated amongst all seven groups—the PacRimmers wanted to help. I told them that Nima likes photos and cards with personal messages. The mailman soon knew that something was going on, since he was suddenly delivering many letters to Nima. We received beautiful cards with heartwarming wishes and thanks for the continued effect that PacRim had had on the students' lives. Even some *parents* sent us cards. Each was a gift of joy during a bleak summer of despair. Some groups made photo albums, and some who live in the Tacoma area came to visit us in the garden. All of this gave us comfort in a difficult year of minimal social contact. Both of us love to give and receive hugs.

The PacRimmers of 2002–03 collected some funds to buy flowers (my favorite) and snacks (Nima's favorite). I thought that it was a one-time gift, but the flowers and snacks appeared every week. I pleaded with them to stop spending their money during this year of financial difficulties. They said they were happy to give back for the wonderful times that they had on PacRim. The flowers and



snacks are still coming every week. *Merci beaucoup.*

In September, everything changed. It was determined that Nima has a special gene mutation known as EGFR. The oncologist declared, “This is the best news that I can give you.” For this mutation, the very effective drug, Tagrisso, can arrest the spread and shrink the nodules. For the past three months, Nima's health has been improving and the prognosis is very good.

Later in September, Megan Baunsgard '15 and Gianna Olson '16 surprised us with a gift. Unbeknownst to us, the group of 2014–15 had brainstormed. Aurelia Wieber '16 suggested making a thousand origami cranes—known as a *senbazuru*. It is a Japanese tradition to create them for someone who is seriously ill and to wish for their recovery. All seven PacRim groups participated in making them. Some made as many as 200, which required days of work. Some made them with their children or spouses and told them stories of their PacRim adventures. Some wrote messages of love and light on the cranes. Their wishes of healing and hope reverberated in our bodies. I was filled with joy. Thank you, dear PacRimmers.

# Puget Sound All Around

BY STELLA ZAWISTOWSKI

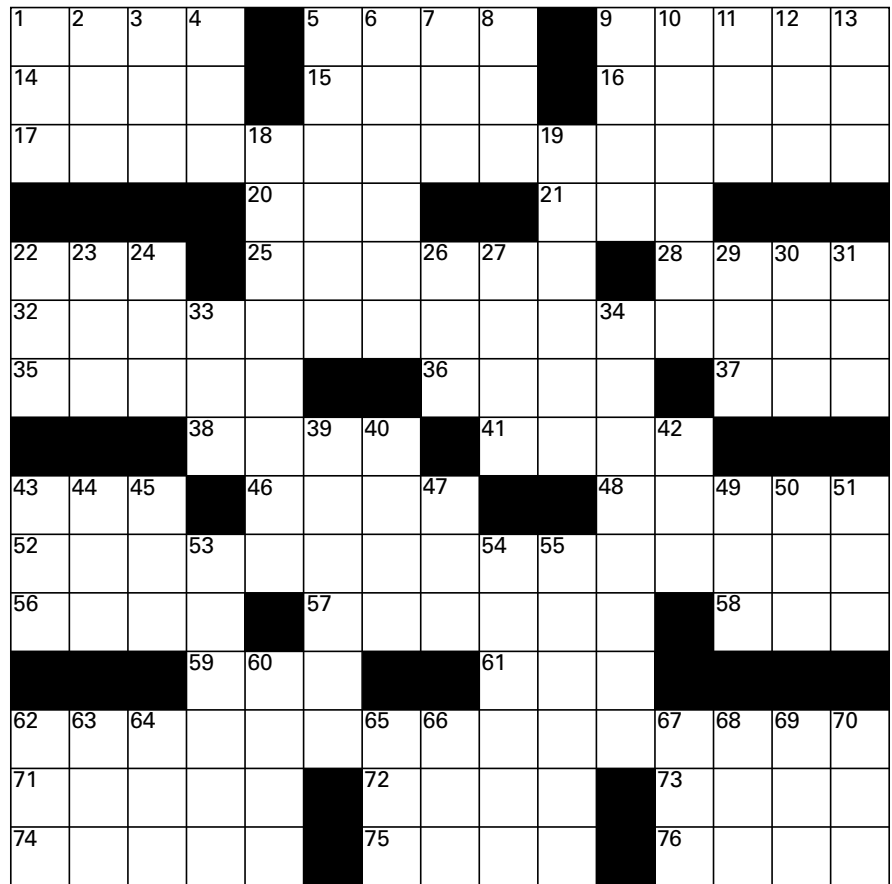
Try your hand at this Logger-themed crossword puzzle. Solve it and send a photo to us at [arches@pugetsound.edu](mailto:arches@pugetsound.edu), or post it on Instagram or Twitter and tag us (@univpugetsound). We'll pick a few successful puzzlers to win a prize. Answers can be found at [pugetsound.edu/psallaround](http://pugetsound.edu/psallaround).

## ACROSS

1. Varsity sport with oars
5. History department's study
9. Teeny-weeny
14. Berry with both a cedilla and an accent mark
15. Adelphian Concert Choir voice part
16. "Can't Get You Out of My Head" singer Minogue
17. Athletic facility since 1924
20. Sci. subject taught by Stacey Weiss
21. Baseball legend Mel \_\_\_\_\_
22. "Jeez, Louise!"
25. Attachment on a winter hat
28. Bird featured in Egyptian mythology
32. Place to get coffee in the science quad
35. Get on the highway
36. Townshend of The Who
37. Partner of yang
38. Princess in L. Frank Baum's books
41. Abbr. in the subject line of a racy email
43. "\_\_\_\_, a deer, a female deer..."
46. Lack of difficulty
48. Some feet, in poetry
52. Dorm with a view of Mount Rainier
56. Wooden feature on a noted Tacoma venue
57. Actress Mena of *American Pie* and *American Beauty*
58. Lambert Int'l. Airport, on luggage stickers
59. Formerly known as
61. Quaint response to "Is it?"
62. Where Isiaah Crawford lives
71. Country sandwiched between Togo and Nigeria
72. Giant sequoia, for one
73. Heavy burden
74. Triangle's threesome
75. Say something fresh to
76. Doesn't quite tell the truth

## DOWN

1. Noise a crow makes
2. Pioneering color-TV maker
3. What a listener lends
4. Success for the Loggers
5. Persona non grata
6. Former veep who has an Oscar, a Grammy, and a Nobel Prize
7. Pig's digs
8. Big Thanksgiving
9. Three-player card game
10. Connecticut town that's spiritual?
11. *Baby Cobra* comic \_\_\_\_\_ Wong
12. *Elementary* star Lucy
13. Transport on the moon, for short
18. *A Christmas Carol* first name
19. Rule at many hotels
22. Lady with kids
23. Gibbon or gorilla
24. Where Rachel Martin '96, Hon.'14, hosts *Morning Edition*
26. Where gloss goes
27. "You said it, sister!"
29. Commencement \_\_\_\_\_ (Puget Sound part)
30. "\_\_\_\_ were you" (words of advice)



31. Maria Cantwell or Patty Murray, for short
33. The self, in philosophy
34. Put a new stain on, perhaps
39. Got together in a big group
40. Not worth \_\_\_\_\_ (valueless)
42. Shake like a dog's tail
43. Dude with kids
44. Performance artist Yoko
45. Techno's genre
47. Item to put a ltr. in
49. PCPs' degrees, often
50. Fake follower on Twitter
51. "Weekend Update" show, familiarly
53. Itty-bitty
54. 32-Across orders with lots of milk
55. Comes up
60. "\_\_\_\_, zwei, drei, vier..."
62. Where to see Hari Sreenivasan '95 on weekends
63. Outdoor-goods co. whose flagship store is in Seattle
64. Come to a close
65. UFO pilots, presumably
66. Org. of which Oliver North was once president
67. Response to a sucker punch
68. Sea urchin, at a sushi bar
69. Rasmussen Rotunda's spot, for short
70. Letter before tee



## IN MEMORIAM

Born in Tacoma in 1915, **Faith Simpson Richardson '39** attended Puget Sound. She passed away April 21, at the age of 104.

**Jane Grondahl Packard '41** died March 27. She was 98. The eldest of four siblings raised in Steilacoom, Wash., Packard graduated from Stadium High School in Tacoma before attending Puget Sound. She earned her pilot's license, raised four children, and traveled North America with her family, ultimately retiring in Leesburg, Va.

**Mildred Blake Benedict '44** passed away April 14. She earned her bachelor's degree in English at Puget Sound, and went on to earn her Master of Library Science degree at University of Portland. She was 97.

**Dixie Simmons Arata '48, '50** died Aug. 29. She was 95. Arata attended business college before receiving her bachelor's degree and certification in occupational therapy from Puget Sound. She went on to complete her master's degree in special education administration at Portland State University and work in the VA hospital in Livermore, Calif., where she became a charter member of the American Association of University Women. After leading the OT department at Morning-side Hospital in Portland, Ore., she worked for the Vancouver School District for nearly 25 years. A light

for all who knew her, Arata loved a good joke and was always ready with a smile or a song.

**Gwen Simmons Causin '48** passed away Oct. 22. She was 94. Raised in Olympia, Wash., Causin earned her bachelor's degree in business administration at Puget Sound, where she served as president of the Alpha Beta Upsilon sorority. While on campus, she met Robert Causin '47, who would become her husband of 72 years. In the 1960s, his position with the Saturn 5 Lunar Landing program moved the family to Huntsville, Ala., and Washington, D.C., and Causin came into her own moonlighting as a travel agent. In retirement, the pair loved sailing their 32-foot Endeavor sailboat, Rajah; vacationing in Hawai'i, Mexico, and Canada; and spending time with friends and family members. Known as "Mima" to her family, Causin was the matriarch behind every family gathering and will be deeply missed.

**John Winters '49** died Aug. 31, at the age of 90. He attended Puget Sound before transferring to University of Washington and becoming a dentist in Lakewood, Wash.

**Barton Hartzell '50, '51, P'85** died Sept. 20, just 10 days after his 91st birthday. After earning degrees in chemistry and education at Puget Sound, Hartzell briefly taught math in Tacoma before enlisting in the Air Force and serving as a Russian lin-

guist during the Korean War. In 1961, he began a 28-year career with Boeing, which took his family to Bolivia, Colombia, Italy, Spain, and Australia. Hartzell continued to travel internationally in retirement and immersed himself in volunteer work, including tutoring immigrants in English, as he was fluent in Russian, German, and Spanish. He is survived by his wife, Luz Elena; daughters Caroline Hartzell '85 and Irene; and extended family and friends.

**Herbert Lippert '52** died Nov. 12, at the age of 90. After graduating from Lincoln High School in Tacoma, Lippert earned a basketball scholarship to attend Puget Sound.

**Helen Fincham MacGilvra '52** died Oct. 22, after a long illness. She was 89. MacGilvra attended Puget Sound for two years before transferring to University of Washington and becoming a high school English teacher.

A graduate of Stadium High School in Tacoma, **Dorothy Ross Springer '52** earned her bachelor's degree in English from Puget Sound before becoming community director at KTNT Radio. She married Frank Springer '52 in 1960, and the couple had five children. Active in the community—and especially in the garden—she was involved in numerous organizations, including Tacoma Primrose Society, Capital District Garden Club, Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs, and more.

Springer died April 14, at the age of 89.

**Maurine Gerards Murray '53** died Oct. 27. She was 89. At Puget Sound, Murray studied home economics and music, and was a member of the Sigma Alpha Iota music fraternity. She became a charter member of the Gamma Zeta chapter of the Alpha Phi sorority in 1953. A competitive ballroom dancer for many years, Murray also loved to sew and was a member of the PEO quilting club, Everett Doll and Toy Collectors, and Antique Addicts. She also was a musician, performing in her church choir and playing the piano and flute—even spending some time with the Everett (Wash.) Symphony. Murray will be most remembered for living a vibrant life and leaving an equally vibrant impact on her family and community.

**Madge Rieke '54** died Oct. 25, at the age of 94. She attended Puget Sound.

Just a year into teaching after earning his education degree from Puget Sound, **David Johnson '55** was drafted and served in Wurzburg, Germany. When he was honorably discharged, he returned to Tacoma and Stadium High School, where he was a beloved social studies teacher for 35 years. He coached debate and softball, sponsored a school trip to the Soviet Union in 1975, and was respected by generations of students who fondly remember "DL Johnson." In retirement, Johnson

and his wife traveled internationally, and he was active in the community, playing tennis and performing in many of his retirement community's musicals.

**Ramon Payne '55, M.Ed. '58, P'74, P'80** died on Dec. 18 after a short illness. While a student at Stadium High School in Tacoma, Payne met Patricia Harter Payne '70, M.A. '78, P'74, P'80, with whom he shared 75 years of marriage. After graduation, he enlisted in the Navy and served as a parts storekeeper on an aircraft carrier during World War II. He later earned his bachelor's degree in education from Puget Sound and began teaching third grade at University Place Elementary School. When Curtis Junior-Senior High School opened, he transferred there, teaching English and social studies, and in 1961 he returned to Puget Sound to serve as dean of men and to coach football and wrestling. After earning his master's in counseling, he became principal of the school at the Washington Corrections Center for Women, and ended his teaching career as a counselor and football coach at Gig Harbor (Wash.) High School. Payne loved sports, building things, and corny jokes. He skied into his 80s and served on the Crystal Mountain ski patrol into his 70s. He will be remembered for finding and encouraging the good in everyone who crossed his path. He is survived by wife Patty; children John Payne '74, Margaret Payne

'80, and Janet Payne Olin P'05 (Richard Olin P'05); and extended family, including grandson Brian Olin '05.

**Maureen Helms Elmquist '56** passed away Sept. 14, at the age of 86. Known as "Mo" to her family and friends, Elmquist graduated from Lincoln High School in Tacoma before attending Puget Sound, where she was active in the Alpha Phi sorority and earned her degree in teaching. She taught kindergarten and first grade in Tacoma Public Schools from 1956 to 1973. A friendly and warm person who loved life and enjoyed arts and crafts, Elmquist hosted a Christmas boutique in her home during the 1980s and 1990s. She was an active member of Emmanuel Lutheran Church, serving on numerous church guilds, playing hand bells, and singing in the choir.

**Barbara Hagen Munro '56** passed away Nov. 20. After graduating from Stadium High School in Tacoma, she studied education at Puget Sound.

**Katherine Kaer Schmidtke '56, P'80** passed away Sept. 30, at the age of 86. After graduating from Puget Sound, where she was active in the Pi Beta Phi sorority, Schmidtke went on to pursue a master's degree in education and a Doctor of Biblical Studies degree in biblical counseling. An ordained Assembly of God pastor, she served at Life Center in Tacoma, and in numerous ministries through-

out the region. She was preceded in death by her husband, Palmer Schmidtke '57, P'80, and is survived by her sons, Stanley Schmidtke '80 and Ken, and their families.

**Raymond Jackl '57** died Oct. 7, at the age of 84. After serving in the U.S. Air Force for more than 31 years and achieving the rank of chief master sergeant, Jackl worked for the U.S. Postal Service as a mail handler, traveling the country by RV in retirement.

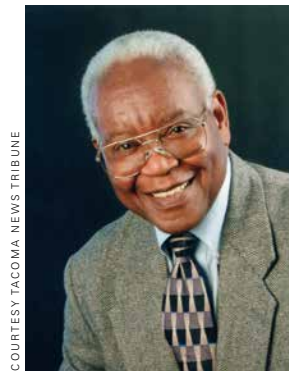
**Delbert Anderson '58** passed away March 5, at the age of 86. After earning a degree in business administration from Puget Sound, he co-founded Anderson and Associates with best friend Mary Minietta. When not working, he could be found golfing, checking on his horses at the track, or fishing with his sons and friends. Anderson was known for saying "Always walk on the sunny side of the street," and will be remembered for his big heart.

Retired Tacoma high school teacher **Merle Weese '58, M.Ed.'64** died Sept. 3, at the age of 88. After graduating from high school in 1950, Weese worked as a sawyer at a Grays Harbor, Wash., sawmill, where he proudly retained all his fingers. In 1952, he married Jeanne, his high school sweetheart and wife of 68 years, and joined the Army, ultimately rising to master sergeant. He served as a communication specialist in the Korean

War and attended college in the Philippines before studying at University of Oregon, then Puget Sound. He went on to teach, predominantly at Lincoln and Wilson high schools in Tacoma. In 1962, Weese and his family moved to Edgewood, Wash., where, for more than 45 years, they nurtured their five-acre farm into a community gathering spot for pickup baseball, football, basketball, hockey, and even, occasionally, snowmobiling. A sportsman and musician, he enjoyed gardening, photography, cars, cooking, and road trips.

**Joann McDonough Bargelt '59** passed away Nov. 24, at the age of 84. Born in Tacoma, Bargelt graduated as valedictorian from Aquinas Academy before studying education at Puget Sound. In 1961, she married Jim Bargelt '62, who preceded her in death; the couple had two children. For nearly 40 years, she taught in Tacoma Public Schools, including many years as an English teacher at Wilson High School, retiring in 2008. In retirement, Bargelt enjoyed researching her Irish heritage, gardening, reading, and spending time with her family.

**Gerry Anderson Martindale '59, M.Ed.'84** passed away Sept. 29. She was 93. Martindale spent most of her 29 years as an English teacher at Stadium High School, where she also served as chair of her department. A lover of Shakespeare, she often ac-



COURTESY TACOMA NEWS TRIBUNE

## Harold Moss Hon.'09 1929–2020

When city officials honored Tacoma civil rights pioneer Harold Moss Hon.'09 on his 90th birthday in 2019, they didn't build a statue—they renamed a bridge. Moss, the city's first Black mayor, knew that the fight against discrimination meant build-

ing generations-spanning connections. The East 34th Street Bridge—now the Harold G. Moss Bridge—points to his mentorship and legacy in organizations like the Tacoma Black Collective, the city's first Human Rights Commission, and the Tacoma Urban League. Moss also was a past president of Tacoma's NAACP branch and is credited with helping quell the 1969 Mother's Day Riot, considered the turning point in Tacoma's race relations. In 2009, University of Puget Sound awarded Moss an honorary degree for his work. (Moss also taught at Puget Sound from 1969 to 1971.)

Born in Texas, Moss served in the Korean War; later, while serving in the National Guard at Fort Lewis (now Joint Base Lewis-McChord), he encountered discrimination at a city skating rink. As he later recounted to the *Tacoma News Tribune*, the rink manager stopped him: "He told me he was terribly sorry, but coloreds skated at the rink on Wednesdays." Later, Moss and his then-wife, Bil, had trouble getting white real estate agents to show them houses. A dental technician, Moss served more than two decades in city and county government, becoming Tacoma's first Black city council member and Pierce County's first Black councilman, and serving two years as Tacoma mayor.

Moss died Sept. 21, 2020. He is survived by his wife, Genie Jefferson; two sons and daughters, including adoptive daughter and current Tacoma mayor Victoria Woodards; and two sisters. —Meri-Jo Borzilleri

company her students to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. After retiring in 1988, she stayed active reading, enjoying classical music and opera, playing piano, traveling abroad, and attending the Puget Sound Women's Book Club and Progressive Study Club.

**Keith Palmquist '61** passed away Oct. 26, at

the age of 86. Prior to earning his bachelor's degree in biology at Puget Sound, Palmquist studied at Washington State University and served in the military Army Corps of Engineers for two years. After graduation, he worked for the city of Tacoma for 25 years, serving as model cities director and community development director, among others.





**Gary L. Peterson**  
1935–2020

Gary Peterson taught at Puget Sound for three decades, starting in 1969, in what was then the communication and theatre arts department. He loved teaching, once describing the ideal instructor's role as that of "catalyst/facilitator/

guide rather than lecturer or font of important knowledge."

Doc P—as students sometimes called him—taught courses subjects including speech education, argumentation and debate, and business and professional communication; he also developed a new emphasis in organizational communication. He chaired his department for 11 years and served four years as director of forensics. After he retired in 1998, his family, colleagues, and current and former students made gifts to establish the Gary L. Peterson Scholarship Fund, which supports a deserving communications studies student annually.

Born in Utah, Peterson grew up on a farm, then earned degrees at The University of Utah and Ohio University (his doctoral dissertation was on the 1858 Lincoln-Douglas Debates), and taught at University of Washington and Brigham Young University before arriving at Puget Sound. He died Nov. 1, 2020, at his home in Meridian, Idaho, at the age of 85. He is survived by his wife, five children, numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and three siblings.

Active in the community, he served on numerous boards, coached Little League football and basketball teams, and was an active member of Immanuel Presbyterian Church, Tacoma Lawn & Tennis Club, Tacoma Yacht Club, and the Elks Club.

Born and raised in Tacoma, **Judith Anderson Finstuen '63** graduated from Lincoln High School and attended Washington State University for a year before completing her degree in education at Puget Sound. She taught fourth grade

in Tacoma schools for 30 years, passing her love of reading and learning on to her students. In retirement, Finstuen pursued her love of travel and enjoyed sewing, crocheting, and working crossword puzzles. She died Nov. 16, at the age of 79, and is survived by her husband of 53 years, Richard Finstuen '63, sisters Diane and Vicki, and extended family members.

**Jack Sather '64** died Sept. 24. He was 78. Sather earned his bachelor's degree in business administration from Puget Sound.

**James Schatz '64** died Sept. 7. He was 89. After high school, Schatz served in the Navy and Reserve before earning his bachelor's degree in business administration at Puget Sound. He spent the bulk of his career with Boeing, retiring after 33 years. Schatz will be remembered for his large smile, affection for sports and the outdoors, and love of family.

**Violet Carlson Wickett '65** died Oct. 23, at the age of 96. Prior to attending Puget Sound and earning her bachelor's degree in education, Wickett attended Wayne State College in Nebraska, earning a one-room school teaching certificate. She followed her husband, Keith, to his Navy commissions in Georgia and Florida, until returning to Nebraska upon the end of his service. They farmed there until 1956, when the family moved to Washington state, and Wickett began a second career teaching second grade, then art for middle school students. In Washington, she was active in the United Methodist Church, serving as a vocal soloist and youth group leader for many years. Her creative talents were on display in the family's Federal Way home, which she designed. She enjoyed painting, pottery, and writing short stories, ultimately publishing a children's book and developing phonetic education materials.

**Celeste Kristovich Paulson '66** passed away Oct. 13, at the age of 76.

**Harold McCartney '67** died April 1. He was 75. McCartney met his wife of 45 years, Linda McCartney '67, who preceded him in death, when he tutored her in biology while both were students at Puget Sound. After graduation, he attended medical school at St. Louis University before serving in the Army for eight years, where he completed a pathology residency at Fort Ord in California. A member of the College of American Pathologists, he served as a pathologist in the Yakima, Wash., area for more than 35 years and as an inspector of pathology labs for the last 10 years. McCartney was an animal lover, and particularly enjoyed the dogs and parrots he owned with Linda. He was fascinated by geology, was an avid builder of model sailing ships and planes, and enjoyed taking cruises with his family, traveling throughout the Caribbean, Mexico, and Alaska. McCartney was known for his wit and kindness—and his colorful ties, often featuring animals.

**Beverly Padway '67** passed away Sept. 16. Born in Los Angeles, Padway earned her bachelor's degree in education at Puget Sound, in addition to studying at University of Arizona and Valley State College, where she earned a B.F.A. in education and a second bachelor's degree in speech and communication. She shared this passion for knowledge and love of learning with her students at Eastman Avenue Elementary School, where she taught

for 25 years. Throughout the course of her life, Padway was an avid collector—of eyeglasses, kokeshi dolls, World War I and II sweetheart jewelry, and baseball caps. She was a dedicated choral singer, performing with the Santa Monica Sweet Adelines for 26 years and with the Angel City Chorale for 25 years. She'll be remembered for her generosity and friendship, and for her gift of storytelling. She was 77.

**Lucille Moore Johnson '69** died Aug. 5, at the age of 87. Prior to completing her education degree at Puget Sound, Johnson studied at Graceland College in Iowa, and bore three sons. She earned her master's degree from Pacific Lutheran University in 1975, and taught fifth grade in Tacoma until retiring in 1993. Johnson and her husband enjoyed more than 20 years as snowbirds, spending winters in Arizona, playing tennis, golfing, and performing in musical and drama groups. She spent several years as a church pianist and parlayed her passion for collecting and selling antiques into a small business, Lucy's Attic. She will be remembered for seeing the best in others and leaving a legacy of love.

**Helen Rilenge Barton '70** passed away Dec. 12, after a long battle with lymphoma and pancreatic cancer. Barton graduated from Puget Sound with a bachelor's degree in Spanish and elementary education. Eventually

settling in Texas in 1977, she worked as an Allstate insurance agent for many years, in addition to being a wife, mother, and grandmother. Active in her church, she served on numerous committees and held several leadership roles, including church elder. Fun, empathetic, and a great hugger, she was known for her amazing cooking, encouraging words, and entertaining stories.

#### **Roger Kriebaum '70**

passed away Nov. 2, at the age of 90. Before graduating from Puget Sound with a bachelor's degree in political science, Kriebaum had a successful 20-year career in the Army. After graduating, he worked for the state of Washington, retiring in 1990. Retirement didn't slow him down. Kriebaum volunteered for many years at Madigan Hospital with the Red Cross and accumulated more than 25,000 kilometers volunteering as a member of the Evergreen Wanderers.

**Dennis Sarsfield '70** died Oct. 1, after a long battle with lung and bladder cancer. He was 80. After two years in the Army, Sarsfield earned his teaching degree at Puget Sound and taught for the Bremerton School District. He was active in the Boy Scouts with his son, Paul, and enjoyed RVing with friends in the Antlers Aweigh RV Club. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth Reed Sarsfield '63, '64, and son, and extended family.

**Peter Freer '72** studied English at Puget Sound before

driving a 4,000-gallon fuel tanker on the Trans Alaska Pipeline and eventually earning a degree in environmental studies from Western Washington University. He passed away Sept. 25, at the age of 72.

#### **Roy Wedlund '72,**

**M.P.A. '74** died Nov. 29, at the age of 85. Wedlund earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees in public administration at Puget Sound. He is survived by his wife, Carol Wedlund '72, M.P.A. '74, children, and grandchildren.

A graduate of Wilson High School in Tacoma, **David Zeh '72** worked in the financial industry after graduating from Puget Sound, retiring in 2001. He was a veteran of the U.S. Coast Guard, and spent his free time gardening, building houses for Habitat for Humanity. His passion was music, especially jazz, and he was a huge fan of the Beatles. Zeh will be remembered as a gentleman with a sweet and kind spirit. He died Oct. 6, at the age of 77.

**LeRoy VanHee '74** died March 21, after a short illness, at the age of 85. After high school, VanHee joined the Navy, serving two years as an electronics technician, mostly stationed in Yokosuka, Japan. Following his honorable discharge, he studied electrical engineering at University of Washington and Montana State University before earning his bachelor's degree in business administration at Puget

Sound. VanHee began his professional career at Boeing, then worked at other companies before returning to Boeing for the final 20 years of his career as a quality assurance specialist for the Department of Defense. In retirement, he enjoyed photographing the wildlife of Edmonds, Wash., contributing many of his photos to the Edmonds Department of Parks and Recreation.

#### **Edward Venable M.B.A. '74**

died Dec. 8, just two days after his 74th birthday. Born in Niagara Falls, N.Y., Venable grew up in Colorado and Michigan, earning his bachelor's degree from Michigan State University before joining the Army and earning his aviator wings at Fort Rucker, Ala. He served as a helicopter pilot in Vietnam as part of Charlie Company, of the 227th, First Air Cavalry and the 60th AHC "Ghost Riders" Aviation Brigade. With more than 1,500 combat hours, he was shot down twice and received the Army's Distinguished Flying Cross, a Bronze Star, and other military decorations. Following his service, he earned his M.B.A. at Puget Sound and launched a successful career with Lockheed Aerospace, working on various "black programs," including the Stealth Fighter. His final assignment was at Kennedy Space Center, supporting the shuttle program, receiving recognition for his outstanding efforts on the investigation and recovery of the shuttle Columbia and Discovery's return to flight. Venable loved going to Walt



#### **Jacki (Jack) Pearce-Droge**

1944–2020

Jacki (Jack) Pearce-Droge taught hundreds of Puget Sound students the value of volunteering. From 1989 until her retirement in 2013, she was director of the Puget Sound Community Involvement and Action Center, the office that at the time over-

saw student volunteer work in the Tacoma area. "My goal," she wrote on her LinkedIn page, "has been to share the value of civic engagement with others on a college campus, as well as encouraging our community to see themselves as being integral aspects of our students' lives."

Among the programs she helped create were Operation SAVE (which encourages students to donate used clothing and bedding when they move out of the residence halls), and Kids Can Do (later called the Big Siblings Mentoring Program). She once said of the university's strong tradition of civic involvement: "[Students] have eagerly helped to clean up parks and streams, tutored, mentored area youth, volunteered their time to coach young people, and presented themselves to be strong models for future generations."

Pearce-Droge also was a disability rights advocate, having chaired the Tacoma Commission on Disabilities and served the Assistance Dog Club of Puget Sound in such roles as president, board member, and newsletter editor. She had multiple sclerosis and had three service dogs over the years: Cheyenne, Forrest, and Chester.

Pearce-Droge died Dec. 2, 2020, in Tacoma. She is survived by son Burtt, a longtime Special Olympian; two sisters; and four nieces and nephews. Her husband, David Droge, taught at the university for 30 years, retiring in 2009 as professor emeritus of communication studies; he died in 2016.

Disney World, bass fishing, and cheering on the Washington Nationals and Atlanta Braves.

A South Sound native and "trainer" to local celebrity golf pro The Golfing Gorilla, **Thomas Tuell '75** graduated from Wilson High School in Tacoma and played golf at University of Washington before completing his

education degree at Puget Sound. He loved to laugh and entertain, and for many years, he wrote a column in *The News Tribune* telling the stories behind personalized license plates in the Puget Sound region. A staple at celebrity and high-profile golf tournaments around the world, Tuell was a member of the 350 Club for golfers that could drive the ball 350-



plus yards. He died Dec. 6, at the age of 70. He is survived by his wife, Sheri Sulenues Tuell '76, and children Matthew and Sarah, as well as many family members and friends.

**Johanna Vermeulen Mason '76, M.A. '79, '88** died Oct. 12. She was 88. Born in Indonesia, Mason spent time in a concentration camp there during World War II, then emigrated to the Netherlands in 1946. After coming to the U.S. in late 1950s, she worked as a secretary in the religion and philosophy department at Puget Sound for more than 20 years. During that time, she raised nine children and earned bachelor's degrees in philosophy and education, and a master's degree in comparative literature. Many got to know her best through her poetry. Described as tenacious and strong willed, Mason will be remembered for living and loving to the fullest.

**James Berg '77, M.B.A. '83, J.D. '90** died Oct. 9. He was 75. Following his third year in college, he was drafted into the U.S. Army, where he spent 21 years on active duty. During that time, he completed his bachelor's degree and M.B.A. in business at Puget Sound. He served three tours in Vietnam as a field artillery officer, plus a year on the DMZ in South Korea and additional assignments in Germany, Italy, and the U.S. At retirement, he held the rank of lieutenant colonel. As an attorney, he prac-

ticed at a Tumwater (Wash.) firm until 2011, then opened a general practice from his home. When not working, Berg enjoyed working on cars, including a 1930 Ford Model A, as well as wood-working and winemaking.

**Piper Cheney '77** passed away Oct. 26, at the age of 64. A lifelong resident of the Puget Sound area, Cheney graduated from Annie Wright School before attending Puget Sound, where she earned her bachelor's degree in education. Known for her strength, determination, and servant's heart, she served as vice president of the Ben B. Cheney Foundation, past board chair and emerita board member of Mary Bridge Children's Hospital, a member of Junior League of Tacoma, and more. She is survived by her husband of 35 years, Matt; brother Bradbury Cheney '82 and sister-in-law Carolyn; her children and grandchildren; and extended family and friends.

**Katharyne Hamilton '77** passed away Aug. 29, at the age of 85. Her life was spent with children. After earning a degree in education at Puget Sound, Hamilton raised eight children and established two private schools and three daycare centers, one of which was among the first 20 in the country to earn accreditation from the National Academy for the Education of the Young Child. A fan of *Jeopardy!* and Scrabble, she loved laughing, visiting Hawai'i, and preparing Christmas Eve feasts.

**Michael Harshfield '78** passed away Dec. 8. He was 69. A prolific reader and lifelong learner, Harshfield was always ready with an obscure fact about the Civil War. After earning his bachelor's degree in biology at Puget Sound, he pursued a master's degree in health education and went on to a career as a respiratory therapist and educator in the medical field that spanned more than 40 years. He served the students of Lone Star College-Kingwood in Houston as an instructor and professor in the Respiratory Care Program and as director of clinical education in respiratory care until retiring in 2016. Known for his big heart and the twinkle in his eye, he will be remembered for the impact he had and the kindness he showed others.

Born in Tacoma as the sixth of 10 siblings, **Jing Ling '79** served as the accounting manager for Pierce Transit for 30 years. In retirement, she traveled the world and enjoyed oil painting, sewing, and knitting. Known for her friendly smile and kindness to both people and animals, Ling made many forever friends, including her pet parakeet, Calypso, whom she taught to talk in their 15 years together. She passed away Oct. 15, at the age of 90.

**Todd de Carteret '85** died Oct. 22. He was 59. At Puget Sound, de Carteret followed in his father's (Alex de Carteret '59, P'85) footsteps, playing football for

the Loggers. As a coach, he led football teams throughout Washington, culminating at Mount Tahoma High School, his alma mater. During his 35-year career, his enthusiasm for life and commitment to education inspired hundreds of students.

Former Bremerton, Wash., high school cross country coach **Christopher Mutchler '85** died Nov. 20, just a week after learning he had pancreatic cancer that had spread to his liver. He was 58. Mutchler earned his bachelor's degree in business administration from Puget Sound and opened his own accounting business. He was an avid snow and water skier, and enjoyed camping. He'll be remembered as a man who was full of life and loved living it.

Second-generation owner and president of American Outdoor Projects **Rodney Smith '85, P'21** died Jan. 1, after a fatal ski accident. He was 57. A passionate outdoorsman and advocate against climate change, Smith was an avid home gardener and world traveler. He loved soccer, playing disc with his friends, and caring for his family, dogs, and goats. Smith will be remembered as an inspiring role model among both his personal and professional circles. He is survived by wife Soraya Smith P'21, sons Aidan and Talvin Smith '21, and an extensive network of family members, friends, and colleagues.

**Kimberly Blevins '91** passed away Aug. 4, at the age of 47. She earned her bachelor's degree in foreign language and international affairs at Puget Sound.

**Klaus Shuler '94** died suddenly while biking the Sammamish River Trail Dec. 2. He was 48. A highly respected emergency medicine physician at Eastside Emergency Physicians in Issaquah, Wash., Shuler was preparing to become medical director of the Swedish Medical Center Mill Creek ER in February. He will be remembered as a devoted husband and father, a curious lifelong learner, and a man of many hobbies, including growing exotic spices, serving as a D&D dungeon master, perfecting pizza dough, and more.

**Michael Gotthold '98** died June 9 from a fall. He was 45. A proud member of the U.S. Navy for 20 years, he was a lieutenant commander and surface warfare officer who served aboard the USS Jason Dunham, at Camp Pendleton, as liaison to the Netherlands Maritime Force in Den Helder, and at the Marine University in Quantico, Va. Gotthold was a passionate advocate for equal rights and the environment. He loved cooking and telling stories, and will be remembered for his contagious smile, heartfelt hugs, quick wit, and dedication to service.

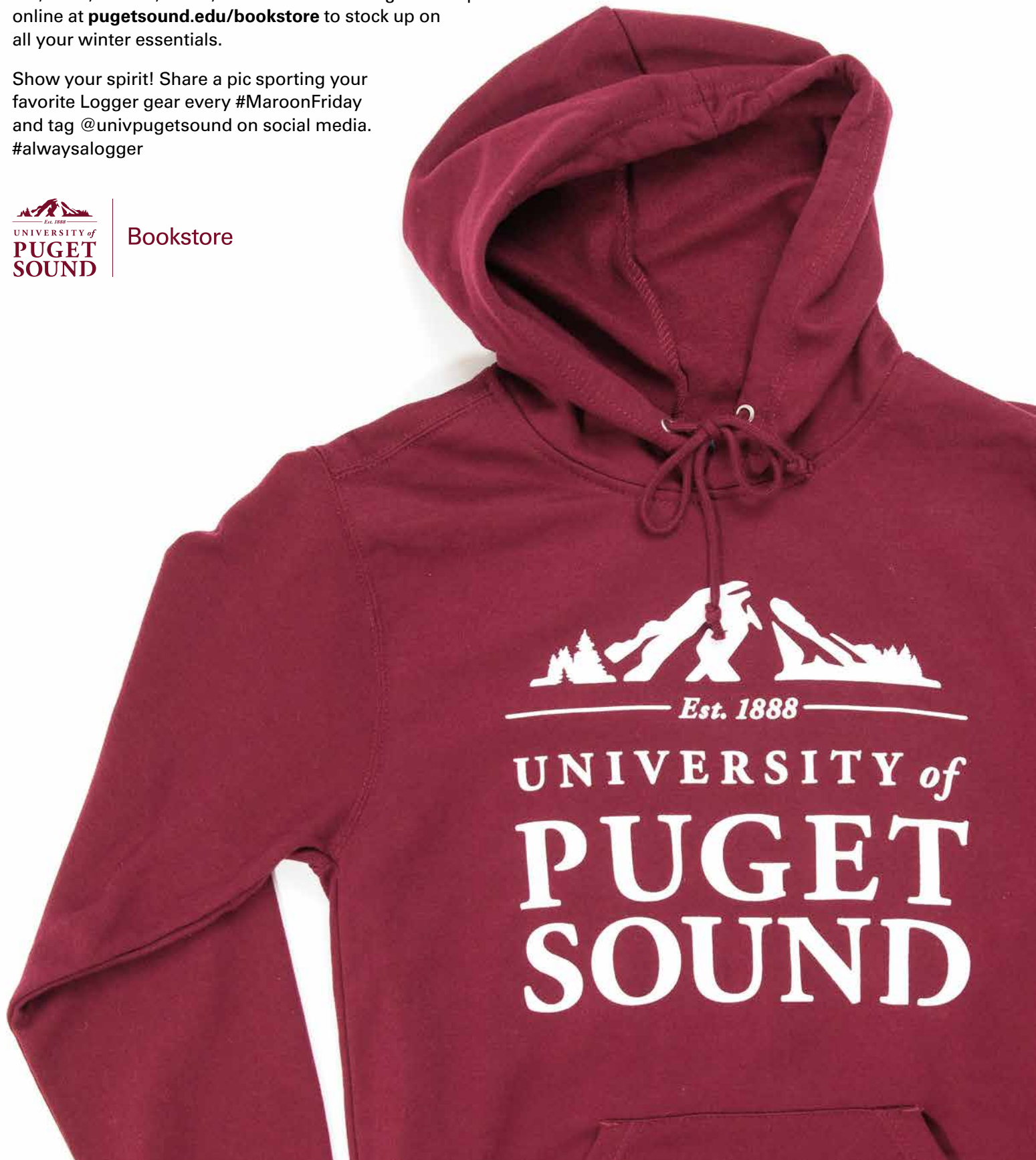
# Bundle up, Loggers!

Keep cozy and rep the maroon and white with a Puget Sound hat, scarf, hoodie, socks, or more. Need new gear? Shop online at [pugetsound.edu/bookstore](https://pugetsound.edu/bookstore) to stock up on all your winter essentials.

Show your spirit! Share a pic sporting your favorite Logger gear every #MaroonFriday and tag @univpugetsound on social media. #alwaysallogger



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Puget Sound Assistant Registrar **Kathleen Campbell '81, P'15** put some of her old Logger gear to good use this summer, making masks for students who may not have them to wear on campus during the fall. Modeling some of her masks are fellow Loggers and staffers, from left to right: Kathleen, Michael Pastore, university registrar, and his dog, Nugget; **Kristen Frieauf Spiese '92, P'19**, director of database administration; **Margaret Smith Mittuch '82**, associate vice president for student financial services; **Carol Odland '89, '96, P'10**, senior developer; and **Faithlina Chan Abeshima '16**, information security administrator.



**Bergen McCurdy Spring '10** and husband John Spring welcomed Vanessa Ruth on Aug. 22, 2019. Big sister Evelyn enjoys making her belly laugh. The family loves visiting Bergen's sister and brother-in-law, **Allison McCurdy Kalalau '03, M.A.T.'04** and **Ryan Kalalau '03**, in Tacoma every year.

### Nico Reijns '12

married Laura Owens Reijns on June 15, 2019, at Lazy F Camp and Retreat Center in Ellensburg, Wash. In the photo are Logger alumni and family, front row from left to right: **Evan Styner '12**; **Rob Wellington '11, M.A.T.'12**; Katie Miller McGee; **Chris McGee '12**, the bride and groom; **Emma Donohew '08**; **Becca Brazell '17**; **Skylar Bihl '08**; and **Ruth Marston '08**. Back row: **Dave Johnson '79**; **Willem Romeijn '79, P'12**; and **Jo Dene Romeijn-Stout '79, P'12**.







Before the pandemic struck, three friends who met on the third floor of Anderson/Langdon during their first year at Puget Sound were able to gather for a mini reunion. From left to right, **Evie Schell Cartwright '02** (Alexandria, Va.), **Sara Sabelhaus '02** (Sacramento, Calif.), and **Hillary Schenk Poor '02** (Park City, Utah) enjoyed the Sundance Film Festival and enjoyed reminiscing and eating delicious food—and missed **Tara Logan Olney '02**, who couldn't join them from Hawai'i.



On New Year's Eve, **Collin Wulff '12** and **Allie Jones '13** rang in the new year by getting married. The pair met at LogJam! 2010, and have been together ever since—a real hack hack, chop chop love story. “We were surrounded by lots and lots of fellow Logger alumni, and we feel very lucky to have made such incredible lifelong friends at the Puge,” writes Allie. Celebrating with Collin and Allie were **Aaron Pomerantz '15**, **Daniel Guilak '13**, **Garner Lanier '12**, **Ramsey Larson '12**, **Erin Byrne '13**, **Marisa Lopez '13**, **Hannah Erickson '13**, **Katie Moran '13**, **Liza Holtz '13**, **Cameron Ford '13**, **Frankie O'Donnell III '09**, **Emily Eisenhart '14**, **Erin Mahoney '14**, **Anna Ortlip-Hume '14**, **Riley Conlin '12**, **Chelsea Harshaw '13**, **Sarah Rothstein '13**, **Kari Vandraiss '13**, **Hannah Kitzrow '13**, **Jacqueline Robinette '13**, **Elisabeth Young '13**, **Sahalie Clapp '14**, **Lauren Raemhild '13**, **Ned Sherry '13**, and **Chloe Tollefson '13**.



Members of the SAE fraternity from 1990 to 1993 (and one Gamma Phi Beta sorority member) met for a Zoom call to honor the birthday of one of their beloved brothers, **Thomas Adams '91**, who died in 2006. On the call, top row from left to right: **Scott Kelly '91**, **Steven Hawk '93**, **James Settle '93**, and **Jeremy Los '91** with Adams in the background. Second row: **John Feltis '91**, **Jeffrey Hussey '91**, **Kirsten Brockman '90**, and **Jeffrey Wallace '90**. Third row: **Christopher Wetzel '91**, **Evan Blake '91**, **Garrett Koehn '93**, and **Brandon Huck '93**. Bottom row: **Eric Grabowski '90**, **Jason Bergstrom '91**, and **Robert Gore '90**.





**Chloé Wallace Eklof '13, M.A.T.'15 and Joel Eklof '16** married on Sept. 21, at Lord Hill Farms in Snohomish, Wash. Many Loggers were present, including those pictured: **Brianne Wilmor; Nick Lyon '16; Stephanie Gates '16; Lindsey Long '16; Sophie Grossman '17; Emily Miller Wickman '05, M.A.T.'07; Jensen Handwork '17; Daniel Laesch '14; Laura Ehli, Justin Ehli '09, M.A.T.'10; Cody Lail; Michelle Wrigley D.P.T.'17; Megan Kober '16; Nicole Renna '15; the bride and groom; Amanda Thompson Sowards '13, M.A.T.'14; Erin Happenny '13; Mel Brazley, Will Henderson '17; Kyla Dierking '17; Doug Palmer '18; Greg Shipman '17; Aaron Altabet '14; Justin Canny '90; Austin Brittenham '16; Mike Eckel '17; Robin Vanhouten '16; Ian Latimer '16; Becca Ebert '16; Louisa Raitt '15; Natalie Smith '16; Alec Pankow '16; Daniel Goodrich '09; Kelsey Roberts '15; Rebecca Harrison '01; Eric Schnell '14; Liz Collins '81, P'02; and Jeff Matthews P'16.**



Logger roommates (clockwise from top left) **Christian McDonald '93, M.A.T.'94; Roman Brent '93; Stephen Little '93; and Bryce Maxell '94, M.O.T.'95** reunited on Zoom.



Loggers who work together mask together! **Laurie Gass Walters '94** is an occupational therapist/certified hand therapist at Hands for Living in Lynnwood, Wash. She made herself and her three Logger co-workers matching Puget Sound masks to wear, showing both civic responsibility and Logger pride. Here all four are modeling their masks, from left to right: **Clairea Geller M.S.O.T.'23, Helen Groffman M.O.T.'15, Hilary Noe '95, and Walters.**





On Oct. 5, 2019, **Sarah Homer '12** and Brad Berryman married at Tanglewood in Lenox, Mass. Loggers in attendance included **Jessie Gauger '12**, **Grace Heerman '13**, **Andi Satterlund '12**, and **Kevin Bohm Jr. '12**

Classmates **Corey Beale '18** and **Lucca Monnie '18** married in an outdoor ceremony.



**Emily Randazzo '17** and **Joseph Randazzo '17** wed Sept. 13, amid the Oregon wildfires and, of course, the pandemic, but the couple managed to celebrate with several Loggers in attendance, including (left to right): **Sabrina Barnett '17**, **Abby Matson '17**, **Thomas Riley '17**, **Spencer Bambrick '17**, **Paige Ashby '17**, **Jake Ashby '17**, **Rayna Shah '17**, **Luke Parkinson '17**, **Alysa Wagatsuma '17**, the groom and bride, **Paige Zimmerman '17**, **Suzu Eiffert '17**, **Zach Miller '17**, **Lisa Dornisch '17**, **Lauren Engstrom '16**, and **Nicholas Nestingen '16**.





**Danielle Shultz '15** and **Braden Foley '15** wed, with friends and fellow Loggers in attendance, including (left to right): **Elsa Woolley '15**; **Peter Bell '15**; **Kevin Miller '15**, M.A.T.'16; the groom; the bride; **Connor Savage '15**; **Alex Lunt '15**; **Colleen O'Brien '15**; and **Andrew Nordstrom '15**.



**Celia Bosworth '90** married Rawle "Farmer" Julien on Nov. 8, 2019, in their Pacific Grove, Calif., home. The couple met in 2015, when Celia was serving as a Peace Corps volunteer in Rawle's hometown of Victoria, Grenada. Of note: Celia got married in the same dress she wore when she graduated from Puget Sound with her bachelor's degree in occupational therapy! Currently, Celia works as an OT in elementary schools in Salinas, Calif., and Rawle is an organic farmer who continues to manage his farm in Grenada.



**Molly Winterrowd LaVere '11** and **Adam LaVere** were married on Jan. 19, 2020, at Broken Top Club in Bend, Ore. Loggers in attendance included: (back row, from left) **Madeline Brenneman '12**; **Chloe Tollefson '13**; **Leah Kennebeck '13**; **Erin Van Patten '12**; **Archelle Grajeda Plessner '11**; Lisa Kenney (Puget Sound athletic trainer); **Matthew Getchell '10**; **Roseann Fish Getchell '09**; **Janet Popp Winterrowd '75**, P'11; **Ty Morris '78**; and **Anne Popp Morris '78**. Middle row, from left: **Emily Webb '13**, **Leah Marsters '11**, **Jorden Greiner Perez '12**, Angel Llanos, **Bijou Felder Cushing '11**, and **Serwaah Fordjour '11**. Front row: the groom and bride. Attending but not pictured: Nancy Popp Wilton '76. The newlyweds live in Honolulu, Hawai'i, where Molly earned her doctorate in clinical psychology and works as a therapist, and Adam earned his master's in sports management while managing Paradise Soccer Club. Wedding festivities included a ceremonial "post-nuptial" log cutting as a nod to the Portland Timbers and Thorns and all the Loggers celebrating!



Both sides of the hatchet are inscribed with class years, starting with the Class of 1908. Two 2006 grads added their class year before turning the hatchet over to then-President Ron Thomas in 2008.

### A CHOPPY HISTORY

Dating to 1908 (one legend has it that students discovered it in a campus barn), the hatchet soon became a source of school pride, and a gift handed down each year from the senior class to the juniors. But tradition soon turned to hijinks, as students plotted repeatedly to steal the thing.

"Students have thrown it from one moving car to another, and over rooftops in an attempt to escape with it," Brandon Lueken '08 wrote in *The Trail* in 2006. The hatchet would go missing for years on end. Among its supposed hiding spots: behind a radiator in Jones Hall, in the spire of Kilworth Memorial Chapel, and in a hollowed-out textbook somewhere in Collins Memorial Library. It wandered off campus, too, at times, even making an appearance in 1980 at an Adelphians concert in Victoria, B.C.

ASUPS leaders Alexander Israel '06 and Ryan McAninch '06 spent \$1,000 to commission a replica in 2006, and today that replica is on display in Wheelock Student Center. The original, returned to university officials for good in 2008, is in fragile condition and is kept under lock and key in an undisclosed campus location.





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Tacoma, Washington

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## STAY CONNECTED.

We're here for you while you're at home. Log on to learn, network, and connect with fellow Loggers this spring. Here are just a few upcoming virtual events. Visit [pugetsound.edu/alumni](http://pugetsound.edu/alumni) for more!

**FEB. 4**

### **Puget Sound Business Breakfast**

with Jim Mullinax '90, deputy director  
for intellectual property enforcement,  
Department of State  
"Finding Common Ground:  
Building Productive Relationships  
in a Challenging World"

**FEB. 18**

### **Loggers Keep Learning**

with Professor Suzanne Holland  
"Eradicating a Virus"

**MARCH 9**

### **Logger Day Challenge**

**MARCH 18**

### **Loggers Keep Learning**

with Professor Nancy Bristow  
"Black Power, Law and Order,  
and the 1970 Shootings at  
Jackson State College"

**MARCH 20**

### **Alumni Council Young Alumni Career Conference**

